

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
What's your level of confidence in the Legislature's ability to pass a new budget for Fiscal Year 2010 before the current fiscal year ends on Sept. 30?

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PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

6

As of August 28, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnnmpheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE



Kidnap Victim

A woman who was kidnapped as an 11-year-old child resurfaces 18 years later.

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Cheers and Jeers

At first, fans politely applauded Madonna. Then the cheers gave way to jeers.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Tongans hold funeral for victims of ferry sinking. **PAGE 3**
EMO warns of heavy rainfall this weekend. **PAGE 5**

IN OPEN GOVT ACT LAWSUIT

High court sides with Sablan

NMI govt told to produce docs by Monday



NEW TEACHERS

Coreen Palacios, standing, the assistant human resource director at the Public School System, assists a new teacher in filling out a form during a PSS orientation for at least 50 teachers and teacher aides for School Year 2009-2010 held in the conference room of Marianas High School in Susupe yesterday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The CNMI Supreme Court has affirmed a lower court ruling that directed Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos to release documents that show how much the CNMI government is paying for the lawsuit it filed against the U.S. government to oppose federalization.



The high court ordered the CNMI government yesterday to make the documents available to Rep. Tina Sablan for copying and inspection by 5pm on Monday, Aug. 31, 2009.

In the decision issued by Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan and Associate Justices John A. Manglona and Alejandro

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Man arrested in hammer attack

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A man was reportedly seriously injured when his friend repeatedly hit him on the head with a hammer as he was sleeping inside his barracks in San Antonio early yesterday morning.

The victim, a 53-year-old Chinese, suffered two lacerations on the forehead and about 10 on the scalp. He was last listed in stable condition at the Commonwealth Health Center.

The suspect, Faqiang Chen, 39, Chinese, was arrested for attempted murder.

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Admin to mark end of Aggreko power Monday

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rented Aggreko power generators will be shut off on Monday afternoon, marking the end of a year-long contract that cost the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. over \$6 million since September 2008.

The Aug. 31 ceremony comes ahead of the Sept. 12 end of CUC's contract with Aggreko.

CUC executive director Tony Muña announced the ceremony to mark the milestone during Monday's Cabinet meeting. Yesterday, press secretary Charles Reyes

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Pacific garbage patch worries researchers

ON THE NET

Scripps Institution of Oceanography,
<http://www.sio.ucsd.edu/>

By MICHELLE RINDELS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A tawny stuffed puppy bobs in cold sea water, his four stiff legs tangled in the green net of some nameless fisherman.

It's one of the bigger pieces of trash in a sprawling mass of garbage-littered

See PACIFIC on Page 4



AP
This image provided by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography shows a patch of garbage in the Pacific Ocean on Aug. 11, 2009.

Local

Fitial wants all requests for info to comply with OGA

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial wants all requests for information received by departments and agencies from individuals, businesses, other entities or federal agencies, including congressional inquiries, to comply with the Open Government Act.

Fitial also wants department heads to properly consult the Office of the Governor before any information is released if the request affects the office.

"When the requested information affects the Office of the Governor, both the request and the requested information

should be shared with me and the Lt. governor to ensure that our offices are properly informed and to afford us the opportunity to provide vital input, clarifications or additional information useful to the Commonwealth," the governor said.

However, the Fitial administration is mum on what or who really caused the governor to issue a memorandum to all departments and agencies on Aug. 25, other than ensuring legal compliance.

"First, the governor respects the Open Government Act, including its exemptions, and supports its legislative intent. The Executive Branch, as you

know, is charged with the enforcement of laws, so it should not be surprising for the governor to ensure such legal compliance," Press secretary Charles Reyes told Saipan Tribune yesterday when asked for comment on the one-page memorandum.

Public Law 8-41 or the Open Government Act requires government agencies to conduct their meetings openly, to make public records available for inspection, and to respond to requests for information within 10 days.

Exceptions are made for emergency meetings and executive sessions that are reasonably

and publicly justified, and there are provisions in place to protect whistleblowers and certain personal records.

Reyes also said it is important for one government agency to know what another government agency is doing, or to share information within the same branch of government, unless there are valid legal or public policy reasons to limit the sharing of information, as in the case of the Public Defender's Office or the Office of the Attorney General.

"In general, we should share relevant information within government agencies and certainly with the head of

all government agencies -- the governor -- to make sure that we all have the same reliable information and to account for any discrepancies," he said.

The press secretary also said that the governor, as the head of all government agencies, must be kept well informed and must be provided a reasonable opportunity to provide input on vital matters involving the CNMI government and the Office of the Governor.

"To put it another way, the chief executive officer of any organization must be aware of the information and activities of all line departments under his responsibility, and must be able

to provide some input and direction, which is perfectly reasonable. This applies to all entities," Reyes added.

In April, *Saipan Tribune* conducted a special project meant to gauge the compliance of government agencies with the Open Government Act.

Results of that survey, dubbed "The Sunshine Project," showed spotty compliance with the mandates of the Open Government Act, with nearly half of 27 major agencies tested failing to provide the requested document, and most having different rules and requirements when responding to requests for information.

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NMI's Dr. Brostrom recognized for TB work in Pacific

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center's medical director, Dr. Richard Brostrom, was recently lauded for his valuable assistance and contribution to Pacific communities, specifically for his work on tuberculosis.

Saipan Tribune learned this after the U.S. Department of Insular Affairs honored Brostrom and another doctor, Dr. Dorina Fred from Chuuk, with a citation on its Web site.

According to the OIA Web site, when the Federated States of Micronesia requested assistance and additional regional

support, Brostrom made it his priority to roll up his sleeves and join the local Chuuk TB program and work for the outbreak investigation.

Since that time, Brostrom has returned to Chuuk almost every month to help Fred with treatment of the cases and administrative support to implement the changes.

The OIA website stated that, while providing crucial expertise, Brostrom never forgot about the patients, soliciting support, delivering gifts, and helping to arrange classroom education for patients.

He was also instrumental in making life at the hospital the

best it could be, according to the published story.

Brostrom was described as having a "unifying presence in the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands for the last 12 years."

The Division of Tuberculosis Elimination presented a special service award to Brostrom

acknowledging his significant contributions.

"It is with great esteem that we acknowledge the significant contributions of a thoughtful person whose efforts have indeed changed the world for TB patients, health care workers, and fellow residents in the U.S.-

Back-to-school summer bash at Palms Resort today

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

With just a few days left before the opening of classes in most schools, Palms Resort Saipan is hosting today's "Back-to-School Summer Bash" at its sprawling Isa Bar poolside.

The hotel staff has prepared live entertainment and beach and pool activities for the kids

and their parents.

The pool is open from 9am to 6pm.

Parker Yobei will be performing live from 11am to 3pm with the participation of two DJ's from Power 99.

This is the second summer bash this year for Palms Resort.

The first was held July 25 with about 200 kids and their parents enjoying the free en-

Affiliated Pacific Islands," the plaque reads.

Brostrom and Fred also won one of the first-place awards in the poster competition conducted by the division.

The ceremony was held in June during the 2009 National TB Conference and was presented by Dr. Philip LoBue, associate director for Science for the Division of Tuberculosis

Elimination of the Centers for Disease Control.

LoBue also recognized Fred, a TB clinician, for her work and competently managing 16 multidrug-resistant patients in the TB isolation ward since she opened it in August 2008. Her work has brought calm to the "storm" in Chuuk and has reduced the number of TB deaths by 90 percent in one year.

Tongans hold funeral service for 74 victims of ferry sinking

By PESI FONUA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga (AP)—Wailing mourners from Tonga dropped a marble plaque inscribed with 74 victims' names into the ocean above the wreck of a ferry that sank this month in a disaster that shook the tiny South Pacific nation.

Relatives and government officials on a small flotilla of boats took part in the funeral ceremony for those believed trapped inside the *Princess Ashika* when it went down Aug. 5.

Two bodies were recovered and 72 other people were believed drowned. Divers were unable to reach the wreck to recover remaining bodies because the water is too deep.

A Tongan Navy honor guard stood to attention as the coffin-shaped marble slab was released into the sea some 54 miles (86 kilometers) northeast of Tonga's capital, Nuku'alofa, at midday Tuesday.

As the plaque slipped into the deep water, an outburst of wailing and crying lifted from the funeral party.

The ceremony replaced the normal Tongan graveyard burial and suggested that the government will not try to recover bodies of remaining victims, although it has not formally announced that it has ended those efforts.

The tragedy triggered accusa-

Navy to do environmental marine survey on FDM

SANTA RITA, Guam—The Navy will conduct an environmental marine survey on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Aug. 31-Sept. 5, from 12am to 11:59pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Training Area on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from this area during

tions in the tiny, impoverished South Pacific kingdom that the government allowed the ferry to operate despite it being unseaworthy. The government has rejected the claims, and an investigation is under way.

Searches at sea and underwater around the wreck ended last week.

The ferry went down with 128 people aboard; 54 were rescued and two bodies were found. The rest are believed to be trapped in the wreck, 360 feet (110 meters) down on the ocean floor—too deep for divers to reach without special equipment only available overseas.

Tongan police commander Chris Kelley said police exhausted all likelihood of finding survivors, and that the families of the 72 persons unaccounted for "can complete closure for their loved ones."

Families had camped outside offices of the ferry operator, Shipping Corp. of Polynesia, for 17 days hoping for news, but ended their vigil Saturday.

On Tuesday, three vessels, a ferry and two Tongan Navy patrol boats, carried mourners to the ocean site from the capital. Joining relatives of the victims were Tonga's Princess Regent, Princess Pilolevu Tuita, Prime Minister Feleti Sevele, government officials and foreign diplomats.

They took turns lowering or throwing wreaths into the sea.

the time and dates indicated.

Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. (USN)

trance and affordable food and drinks.

Cool drinks that cost only \$3 include Cookies and Cream, Mocha Java, Chocoholic, Berry Strawberry, Tropical Chili, Buko Pandan, Tango Mango, Saipan Saibok, Ube Doobi, Kuduko Nut, Melon Mania, Honey Don't, Pina Colada, and Banana Berry.

Set bento is as low as \$5

and includes chicken barbecue, coleslaw, and iced tea.

Palms Resort promises more activities in today's event, such as ocean kayaking, sea cycling, riding on a pedal boat, and other water activities.

The regular attraction—watermelon hitting contest and the water balloon tossing contest—are expected to draw a lot of kids again.

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Wiseman lauds his secretary of 25 years

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman handed a certificate of appreciation to his secretary yesterday for her 25 years of service.

Wiseman announced to the court the silver anniversary (25 years) of Vivian Sablan Dela Cruz's employment as his secretary.

Dela Cruz's length of service with Wiseman encompasses 17 years in private

Vivian Sablan Dela Cruz celebrates this year 25 years of working for Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman as his secretary.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

practice and more than eight years on the bench.

"I am very fortunate for having been privileged to receive 25 years of dedicated, loyal, and competent services performed by Vivian," Wiseman said.

The judge extended his "most sincere appreciation and gratitude to Vivian Dela Cruz on this very special occasion."

Wiseman treated Dela Cruz to lunch at a Chinese restaurant yesterday. Some court staff and a lawyer

joined the occasion.

In addition, judge gave his long-time secretary a laptop computer.

Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune* that Wiseman is a great employer, hence her loyalty to him.

"I'm very thankful for having the opportunity to work for him," she added.

Dela Cruz was only 18 years old when she started working as Wiseman's secretary. She and her husband, Edward Dela Cruz, have three children.

MAN

From Page 1

aggravated assault, and assault with a dangerous weapon. He was not injured, police said.

Chen was taken before Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong said police officers responded to a barracks behind Chang's Jewelry in San Antonio after receiving a report about a disturbance around 4:30am.

When police officers arrived at the scene, they saw the victim with a bloodied head. The victim was brought to CHC.

Tarkong said preliminary investigation showed that while the victim was sleeping inside his room, his friend Chen came and hit him several

times on the head with a hammer.

Police officers arrested Chen at the scene and detained him at the Department of Corrections.

Police recovered the hammer at the scene and crime scene technicians secured it as evidence.

"This case is under investigation and as of this time, no exact motive has been established in the attack," Tarkong said.

Last week, a 44-year-old man suffered multiple injuries when one of his roommates allegedly stabbed him during an argument over loud video games at an apartment in Finasius.

The victim, a Chinese, sustained eight stab wounds in the back of his head, left forearm, right side of his chest, back, and right index finger. He was listed in stable condition at CHC.

The suspect, He Jiao, 28, Chinese, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon. He was not injured.

ADMIN

From Page 1

invited the media to the 1:30pm event that will be highlighted by the disconnection of Aggreko engines by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos and other Cabinet members.

"This event marks the full rehabilitation of our local power plant capacity, which is a significant accomplishment for the administration. This was achieved, in part, by successfully using

millions of dollars in federal funds from [the U.S. Department of the] Interior," Reyes said.

Since September, CUC had been paying Aggreko a little over \$500,000 a month for the rental of power generators as CUC repaired its engines after a series of rolling blackouts last year.

Aggreko commissioned approximately 15 megawatts of temporary, diesel-fired power generators that meant the difference between rolling blackouts and generally continuous

electric service to CUC customers.

Because of the rolling blackouts and needed engine rehabilitation, Fital declared a state of emergency for CUC in August 2008. He has since been extending the emergency declaration every month.

CUC said it will be able to produce 55 megawatts of power in September and, at the same time, will have a reserve of 15 MW, without Aggreko generators. CUC's capacity is expected to increase to 61 MW in October, plus 22 MW in reserve capacity.

HIGH COURT

From Page 1

C. Castro, they said that public disclosure legislation provides a vehicle for citizens to remain informed about the decisions of agencies and offices throughout the Commonwealth.

Without such knowledge, the justices said, accountability falters, and officials are at liberty to expend public funds with minimal oversight.

"Having followed the statutory directive to liberally construe the provisions of the Open Government Act in favor of disclosure, we find that the government must make the public records available for inspection," said the justices in the 15-page decision.

Rep. Sablan said yesterday the principles of justice, democracy, and honest government have prevailed with the Supreme Court's decision.

PACIFIC

From Page 1

water, known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, where most of the plastic looks like snowy confetti against the deep blue of the north Pacific Ocean.

Most of the trash has broken into bite-sized plastic bits, and scientists want to know whether it's sickening or killing the small fish, plankton and birds that ingest it.

During their August fact-finding expedition, a group of University of California scientists found much more debris than they expected. The team announced their observations at a San Diego press conference Thursday.

"It's pretty shocking—it's unusual to find exactly what you're looking for," said Miriam Goldstein, who led fellow

"For that I am both happy and grateful. I look forward to receiving the requested records on Monday, and will make them immediately available for public review," Sablan said.

When asked for comments, press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. said he does not foresee an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"The Supreme Court is the supreme law of the land. I believe we will have to review the ruling and comply with the law, as interpreted by the courts," Reyes said.

He said the administration cannot say anything more until they have had a chance to review the decision and its analytical basis.

Sablan had sued Fital and Inos to compel the administration to disclose where it is getting the money to fund the lawsuit against federalization.

The congresswoman asked the court to issue an order mandating Fital and

Inos to fulfill their obligations under CNMI law by making available the requested materials within 40 hours of the court's decision.

Fital and Inos, through assistant attorney general Braddock J. Huesman, argued, among other things, that forcing the CNMI to release sensitive information that the federal government is not entitled to contravenes the purpose of a statute that deals with litigation exceptions to the Open Government Act.

Last June 18, Wiseman ordered Fital and Inos to provide Sablan with documents showing how much taxpayers money had been spent, how much the Chicago-based law firm Jenner and Block is billing the CNMI, and the identity of the source of the money being used in the lawsuit against federalization.

Wiseman ordered Fital and Inos to release all requested documents—ex-

cept the engagement letter and detailed invoices—to Sablan within 48 hours.

The judge ruled that disclosing the contents of the documents would in no way disadvantage the CNMI in the federalization lawsuit, and that much of the information was already a matter of public record.

Fital and Inos immediately appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court. Huesman also filed in the Superior Court a motion for a stay of the directives in that order pending the appeal.

On June 19, Wiseman denied the motion. That same day, the Supreme Court granted the petition for a stay of Wiseman's orders.

In Fital's and Inos' pleadings, Huesman said Wiseman's decision was erroneous as the trial court impermissibly shifted the burden of the "clearly unnecessary" test to the governor and lieutenant governor.

Sablan had asserted that there is

researchers from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego on the three-week voyage.

While scientists have documented trash's harmful effects for coastal marine life, there's little research on garbage patches, which were first explored extensively by self-trained ocean researcher Charles Moore just a decade ago. There's also scant research on the marine life at the bottom of the food chain that inhabit the patch.

But even the weather-beaten, sun-bleached plastic flakes that are smaller than a thumbnail can be alarming.

"They're the right size to be interacting with the food chain out there," Goldstein said.

The team also netted occasional water bottles with barnacles clinging to the side. Some of the trash had labels written in Chinese and English, hints of

the long journeys garbage takes to arrive mid-ocean.

Plastic sea trash doesn't biodegrade and often floats at the surface. Bottle-caps, bags and wrappers that end up in the ocean from the wind or through overflowing sewage systems can then drift thousands of miles.

The sheer quantity of plastic that accumulates in the North Pacific Gyre, a vortex formed by ocean and wind currents and located 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) off the California coast, has the scientists worried about how it might harm the sea creatures there.

A study released earlier this month estimated that thousands of tons of plastic debris wind up in the oceans every year, and some of that has ended up in the swirling currents of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

Katsuhiko Saito, a chemist at Nihon

University, Chiba, Japan, told the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society last week that plastic actually does decompose, releasing potentially toxic chemicals that can disrupt the functioning of hormones in animals and marine life.

The Scripps team hopes the samples they gathered during the trip nail down answers to questions of the trash's environmental impact. Does eating plastic poison plankton? Is the ecosystem in trouble when new sea creatures hitchhike on the side of a water bottle?

Plastics have entangled birds and turned up in the bellies of fish, and one paper cited by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration estimates 100,000 marine mammals die trash-related deaths each year.

The scientists hope their data gives

clues as to the density and extent of marine debris, especially since the Great Pacific Garbage Patch may have company in the Southern Hemisphere, where scientists say the gyre is four times bigger.

"We're afraid at what we're going to find in the South Gyre, but we've got to go there," said Tony Haymet, director of the Scripps Institution.

Only humans are to blame for ocean debris, Goldstein said. In a blog entry posted a day before the science ship arrived in Newport, Oregon, she wrote the research showed her the consequences of humanity's footprint on nature.

"Seeing that influence just floating out here in the middle of nowhere makes our power painfully obvious, and the consequences of the industrial age plain," she wrote. "It's not a pretty sight."

PSS sets 'rigorous test' for history, bilingual teachers

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

In the absence of a rigorous test equivalent to Praxis, the Board of Education is recommending the formation of a standard examination for teachers of CNMI history and Chamorro and Carolinian Language Heritage Studies so they can also be classified as highly qualified by the Public School System.

Fiscal and Personnel Affairs Committee chair Herman T. Guerrero said that once these teachers pass the exam, they could also be given the same salaries as public school teachers under the highly qualified teachers' compensation plan, which provides up to \$47,000 annual pay depending on credentials and requirements.

He said the exam would test

Susupe Regional Beach Park facilities renovated

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources and the Division of Parks and Recreation have teamed up with Tan Holdings to renovate the Susupe Regional Beach Park pavilions.

According to DPR director Tony Benavente, the pavilions recently underwent renovations at the full expense of Tan Holdings.

The Saipan Grand Hotel, which is adjacent to Susupe Regional Beach Park, is under the umbrella of Tan Holdings.

"In our efforts to maintain a beautiful island for all of us who make Saipan our home, and in our efforts to attract more tourists to our islands, we thought it would be a win-win situation to assist in the beautification of our neighborhood park," said

CONTACT INFO

Division of Parks and Recreation: 234-7405, 234-1791

Ed Arriola, a representative of the company.

Benavente said the renovation of the pavilions, the outdoor stage, and the installation of the electrical wirings of these facilities have been completed. However, the renovation of the toilet facilities as agreed upon by the two entities has yet to be completed by the DLNR, Division of Parks and Recreation.

According to Benavente, there is \$10,000 available to renovate the Susupe Regional Beach Park toilet facilities, and these funds are under the expenditure authority of the Secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

He said that Tan Holdings plans to install solar powered

DEQ, Beautify CNMI take the lead in coastal cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality's regular monthly cleanup brigade is deviating from its regular first Saturday of each month beach cleanup so it could join the 24th annual International Coastal Cleanup on Sept. 19, 2009.

The DEQ Brigade will be teaming up with the Beautify CNMI Coalition for the coastal cleanup and is inviting other government agencies and community organizations to join other international groups that will be participating in the event.

The 24th annual International Coastal Cleanup will be held Saturday, Sept. 19, from 8am to 12pm. The public is invited and encouraged to participate in this event. DEQ will identify coastal areas around the island that needs cleaning and a list will be available for groups to choose as their cleanup sites.

While CNMI groups have participated in islandwide and other beach cleanups over the

years, this will be a first coastal cleanup for the entire Commonwealth on the same day along with other groups in other parts of the globe. Community organizations, government offices and groups, as well as candidates for public office are encouraged to take part in the cleanup.

A number of volunteers have already adopted beaches, including South Lao Lao, Cow Town, Marine Beach and Paupau Beach for the Sept. 19 event, said Lisa H. Eller, DEQ's outreach and publications coordinator.

The International Coastal Cleanup is the world's largest volunteer effort to help protect the ocean, according to the Ocean Conservancy, a nonprofit organization dedicated solely to protecting ocean environments and marine life.

To request a signup sheet, contact Eller or Joe Kaipat, DEQ, at 664-8500/1 or e-mail lisaeller@deq.gov.mp. (DEQ)

teachers on content knowledge in the two specific areas.

According to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, the No Child Left Behind Act allows schools to establish and create a standard test in the absence of a set rigorous exam for other subject areas.

"Because we have no Praxis tests for these areas, this is the PSS management initiative

to allow this group of teachers to become HQT, provided they pass the requirements," Guerrero told the board.

The board had set three requirements for its teachers to be deemed highly qualified: a degree, valid certification, and Praxis tests.

PSS human resource offi-

cer Charlie Kenty disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that there are a total of 33 staff who teach the Chamorro language in public schools while 12 teach the Carolinian language. A significant number of teachers also handle CNMI history subjects. Unlike classroom teachers, they are paid a lower salary and are classified as instructors.

Kenty explained that the goal of PSS is to enhance the capabilities and qualification of these teachers and include them in the pool of teaching staff that benefit from the compensation plan approved by the board.

PSS records show that 69 percent of PSS teachers are considered highly qualified. The

lamp posts along the walkway around the park. DLNR Secretary Dr. Ignacio dela Cruz stated that power costs for the Susupe Regional Beach Park, along with the other pavilions, are paid under the DLNR-DPR account. Dr. dela Cruz is exploring the possibility of having smart meters installed at all public pavilions/ facilities. The smart meter functions like a prepaid phone card, where the user estimates the amount of power to be used for their function, and purchases the right prepaid card from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Use of all public parks are based on a first come-first served basis. However several pavilions may be reserved in advance through the Division of Parks and Recreation. For more information contact the division at 234-7405 or 234-1791. (PR)

number is expected to go up before the year ends, as many non-HQT teachers took the Praxis tests in June.

Commissioner Sablan said the Northern Marianas College, the venue for the Praxis tests, has noted a significant increase in the number of teachers who took the test recently.

PSS described the current compensation practice for bilingual and history teachers "unfair."

Instructor 2, who are high

Saipan Tribune learned that, of the roughly 50 bilingual educators at PSS, only 13 have so far been issued the required certification to be recognized as instructors.

There are three classifications of instructors.

Instructor 1, those who are high school graduates and have at least two years experience as teacher aides or an associate degree, are paid \$28,784 annually.

Instructor 2, who are high

school graduates and must have 30-hour credits of approved professional education courses toward completing an associate degree, gets \$34,211 per year.

Instructor 3, which the PSS does not have, gets the maximum per annum salary depending on their work experience.

Most of the estimated 50 bilingual educators are considered instructor 1, while 13 are deemed instructor 2.

fect for the Marianas.

Residents of Saipan, Tinian, and the northern islands of Agrihan, Alamagan, and Pagan can expect possible rainfall amounting between 8 to 12 inches of rainfall and residents of Rota can expect rainfall between 6 to 10 inches this coming week too.

EMO is advising motorists and residents in low-lying areas to take extra precautionary measures for ponds of water on roadways, poor drainages and possible debris on roads. (EMO)

EMO warns of heavy rainfall this weekend

Based on information received from National Weather Service in Tiyan Guam and compiled by the CNMI Emergency Management Office, heavy rainfall is possible across the Marianas this weekend to late next week.

As of 1pm yesterday, Tropical Depression 12W is forming northeast of the Marianas, located near 22 degrees north and 148 degrees east. A large band of showers and thunderstorms stretching from central Philippines and continuing to just

southwest of Guam is expected to connect to this tropical depression in the next day or two.

"The models indicate that this large monsoonal rain band will connect to the tropical depression over our area," said EMO.

This will bring band of showers and residents of Saipan, Tinian and Rota can expect periods of heavy rain and gusty winds from this weekend to late next week.

At the moment, however, no watches or warnings are in ef-

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Bridal & Accessories Excluded

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PUBLIC NOTICE

On August 25, 2009, Sorensen Television Systems, Inc. filed applications with the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C. for five (5) separate applications for new Low Power Television Stations to serve Garapan, Saipan, MP on Channels 34, 38, 40, 42 and 44, respectively. All of the proposed stations will operate with 2 kilowatts power from a transmitter site located at Gualo Rai Center II, Gualo Rai, Saipan, NMI.

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

CNN'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Time for a DWT citation

The urge to text while driving apparently strikes widely, affecting everyone from excessively social teens to BlackBerry-obsessed business people to the District of Columbia's multitasking mayor. Wherever it hits, it can be dangerous.

According to a study by Car and Driver magazine, reaction time while texting is often twice as long as while legally intoxicated. Still, only 17 states and the District of Columbia have passed legislation to discourage the risky behavior — and a couple of those states have banned texting only for drivers under 21 years old.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has called for a summit to address the issues known as driving while distracted. The hope is to find some consensus among experts on how to make drivers as aware of these dangers as they have become with regard to drunken driving.

The most straightforward solution would be to use federal highway funds to encourage states to adopt bans on texting while driving, modeled on the seatbelt law. Though the ban might not be consistently enforceable, it would help people understand the gravity of being distracted while driving and would help make the unsafe practice socially taboo.

As technological advances outpace the evolution of human reflexes, not to mention social graces, people are often unsure of where and when to use their gadgets. Is it okay to take a call in the middle of dinner? To check Facebook during a meeting? To send a text message while driving? Banning texting while driving would be the most direct way to answer that last question.

According to the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute, texting renders drivers 23 times more likely to have an accident or an extremely close call. It's about time the issue rose to national prominence.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post

MOVE OVER, YOU'RE
NOT THE ONLY ONE
AT RISK OF DROWNING.



5 myths about health care around the world

By T.R. REID
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

As Americans search for the cure to what ails our health-care system, we've overlooked an invaluable source of ideas and solutions: the rest of the world. All the other industrialized democracies have faced problems like ours, yet they've found ways to cover everybody—and still spend far less than we do.

I've traveled the world from Oslo to Osaka to see how other developed democracies provide health care. Instead of dismissing these models as "socialist," we could adapt their solutions to fix our problems. To do that, we first have to dispel a few myths about health care abroad:

1. It's all socialized medicine out there.

Not so. Some countries, such as Britain, New Zealand and Cuba, do provide health care in government hospitals, with the government paying the bills. Others—for instance, Canada and Taiwan—rely on private-sector providers, paid for by government-run insurance. But many wealthy countries—including Germany, the Netherlands, Japan and Switzerland—provide universal coverage using private doctors, private hospitals and private insurance plans.

In some ways, health care is less "socialized" overseas than in the United States. Almost all Americans sign up for government insurance (Medicare) at age 65. In Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands, seniors stick with private insurance plans for life. Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is one of the planet's purest examples of government-run health care.

2. Overseas, care is rationed through limited choices or long lines.

Generally, no. Germans can sign up for any of the nation's 200 private health insurance plans—a broader choice than any American has. If a German doesn't like her insurance company, she can switch to another, with no increase in premium. The Swiss, too, can choose any insurance plan in the country.

In France and Japan, you don't get a choice of insurance provider; you have to use the one designated for your company or your industry. But patients can go to any doctor, any hospital, any traditional healer. There are no U.S.-style limits such as "in-network" lists of doctors or "pre-authorization" for surgery. You pick any doctor, you get treatment—and insurance has to pay.

Canadians have their choice of providers. In Austria and Germany, if a doctor diagnoses a person as "stressed," medical insurance pays for weekends at a health spa.

As for those notorious waiting lists, some countries are indeed

plagued by them. Canada makes patients wait weeks or months for nonemergency care, as a way to keep costs down. But studies by the Commonwealth Fund and others report that many nations—Germany, Britain, Austria—outperform the United States on measures such as waiting times for appointments and for elective surgeries.

In Japan, waiting times are so short that most patients don't bother to make an appointment. One Thursday morning in Tokyo, I called the prestigious orthopedic clinic at Keio University Hospital to schedule a consultation about my aching shoulder. "Why don't you just drop by?" the receptionist said. That same afternoon, I was in the surgeon's office. Dr. Nakamichi recommended an operation. "When could we do it?" I asked. The doctor checked his computer and said, "Tomorrow would be pretty difficult. Perhaps some day next week?"

3. Foreign health-care systems are inefficient, bloated bureaucracies.

Much less so than here. It may seem to Americans that U.S.-style free enterprise—private-sector, for-profit health insurance—is naturally the most cost-effective way to pay for health care. But in fact, all the other payment systems are more efficient than ours.

U.S. health insurance companies have the highest administrative costs in the world; they spend roughly 20 cents of every dollar for nonmedical costs, such as paperwork, reviewing claims and marketing. France's health insurance industry, in contrast, covers everybody and spends about 4 percent on administration. Canada's universal insurance system, run by government bureaucrats, spends 6 percent on administration. In Taiwan, a leaner version of the Canadian model has administrative costs of 1.5 percent; one year, this figure ballooned to 2 percent, and the opposition parties savaged the government for wasting money.

The world champion at controlling medical costs is Japan, even though its aging population is a profligate consumer of medical care. On average, the Japanese go to the doctor 15 times a year, three times the U.S. rate. They have twice as many MRI scans and X-rays. Quality is high; life expectancy and recovery rates for major diseases are better than in the United States. And yet Japan spends about \$3,400 per person annually on health care; the United States spends more than \$7,000.

4. Cost controls stifle innovation.

False. The United States is home to groundbreaking medical research, but so are other countries with much lower cost structures. Any American who's had a hip or knee replacement is standing on French innovation. Deep-brain stimulation to treat depression is a Canadian breakthrough. Many of the wonder drugs promoted end-

See 5 MYTHS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Sometimes it's not your war, but you sacrifice anyway

To outsource the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the United States has turned to the cheapest labor possible. About two-thirds of the 200,000 civilians working under federal contracts in the war zones are foreigners. Many come from poor, Third World countries. Others are local hires.

These low-paid foreign workers face many of the same risks soldiers do. Mortars have killed Filipinos who served meals in mess halls. Assassins have targeted Iraqis translating for soldiers. roadside bombs have ripped into trucks driven by Turkish nationals. These workers have been wounded like soldiers. They have died like soldiers.

The United States has a system to provide care for such civilian casualties. Developed in the 1940s, it is an obscure type of workers' compensation insurance, funded by taxpayers and overseen by the Labor Department. Mandated by a law called the Defense Base Act, the system requires almost every federal contractor working abroad to purchase insurance to cover injuries arising from work or war, for all employees, American or foreign.

American civilian workers have had trouble enough getting payment for their injuries. AIG, the primary provider of such insurance, has battled them over everything from prosthetic legs to treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder, according to court records and interviews. But at least the Americans have a fighting chance.

For foreign workers, the system has not even come close to delivering on its promises. In Nepal, I spoke with a family in a remote valley of tumbling rivers and jewel-green rice fields. After neighbors heard news reports over the radio, the family watched an Internet video that showed that their son had been executed in a dusty ditch in western Iraq on his way to work at a base for U.S. soldiers. Neither the company nor the United States had made any effort to contact them. The elderly couple, who had relied upon their son's salary, wondered how they would survive.

In the Philippines, I spoke to a woman who received a cellphone message when her son's father died: "God took him." She, too, had never been told of her rights to benefits by the employer or the United States. Her partner's wages were so low that the death payment would have amounted to about \$14,000. Not much, perhaps. But on the day I met her in a slum of tin shanties and reeking sewage, she did not know where she would find food that night for her 3-year-old son. She still has received no payments.

These are not isolated examples. They are part of a pattern of neglect by the U.S. government and its contractors to inform civilian workers of their rights or even to deliver care that has already been purchased by taxpayers. While about two-thirds of the contractors in Iraq and Afghanistan are foreigners, only about 15 percent of claims are filed by foreigners, according to an analysis of Labor Department and Pentagon records by ProPublica, a nonprofit newsroom.

Since foreigners work many of the same jobs as Americans, albeit for far less money, the reasons for the disparity seem obvious. Their care has been entrusted to an overwhelmed bureaucracy and the machinations of insurance firms and multinational corporations. And the government has so far shown little interest in helping them out.

Seth Harris, the deputy secretary of labor, said at a congressional hearing in June that the program has "systemic problems," and he urged Congress to enact new legislation. "The program is not designed for the circumstances we're in right now," Harris told the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. "We are trying to meet a complex, 21st-century challenge with a program

from World War II."

Harris' history lesson is spot on. Congress, corporate America and individual laborers banded together 60 years ago to create the program for wounded war workers after what is perhaps one of the most forgotten chapters of World War II.

On the day of the Pearl Harbor bombing, Japanese forces also attacked the South Pacific outpost of Wake Island. At the time, about 1,200 American construction workers were beefing up the island's defenses. Most were employed by an Idaho construction company, Morrison Knudsen. Aided by the contractors, who manned gun batteries in some cases, U.S. Marines repelled the first attack, but they fell to a second assault on Dec. 23, 1941.

The Japanese sent both civilians and soldiers to prisoner-of-war camps in China. But a contingent of 98 contract workers was kept on the island as forced labor. They were all men, mostly white, from towns across America. Photos show them with pomaded hair and fedoras. When the U.S. Navy attacked the island in October 1943, the Japanese lined up the workers and executed them, dumping their bodies in a mass grave.

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A single, unknown man escaped, only to be recaptured a few weeks later. In a macabre echo of the fate that would befall several contractors in Iraq, the Japanese commander, Adm. Shigematsu Sakaibara, later confessed to personally beheading him, according to an account by Mark Hubbs, a retired Army Reserve officer who researched the incident. All told, more than 150 civilian contractors from Wake Island were killed, executed or died in prison camps.

The civilians' entanglement in the war caught the military and the contracting firms unprepared. Earlier in the year, Congress passed the Defense Base Act, requiring defense contractors to purchase workers' compensation insurance for employees building overseas bases as the U.S. girded for war. But it was a law for workplaces, not war zones. The law did not deal with hostile acts. Nor did it cover employees killed outside the workplace, such as civilians who died in prison camps. The families of the Wake Island men were left without income.

"These people were just coming out of the Depression. There were young wives with children, dependent parents," said Bonnie Gilbert, an Idaho writer whose father was an imprisoned worker.

applicants, and they can't cancel as long as you pay your premiums. The plans are required to pay any claim submitted by a doctor or hospital (or health spa), usually within tight time limits. The big Swiss insurer Groupe Mutuel promises to pay all claims within five days. "Our customers love it," the group's chief executive told me. The corollary is that everyone is mandated to buy insurance, to give the plans an adequate pool of rate-payers.

The key difference is that foreign health insurance plans exist only to pay people's medical bills, not to make a profit. The United States is the only developed country that lets insurance companies profit from basic health coverage.

In many ways, foreign health-care models are not really "foreign" to America, because our crazy-quilt health-care system uses elements of all of them. For Native Americans or veterans, we're Britain: The government provides health care, funding it through general taxes, and patients get no bills. For people who get insurance through their jobs, we're Germany: Premiums are split between workers and employers, and private insurance plans pay private doctors and hospitals. For people over 65, we're Canada: Everyone pays premiums for an insurance plan run by the government, and the public plan pays private doctors and hospitals according to a set fee schedule. And for the tens of millions without insurance coverage, we're Burundi or Burma: In the world's poor nations, sick people pay out of

5 MYTHS

From Page 10

lessly on American television, including Viagra, come from British, Swiss or Japanese labs.

Overseas, strict cost controls actually drive innovation. In the United States, an MRI scan of the neck region costs about \$1,500. In Japan, the identical scan costs \$98. Under the pressure of cost controls, Japanese researchers found ways to perform the same diagnostic technique for one-fifteenth the American price. (And Japanese labs still make a profit.)

5. Health insurance has to be cruel.

Not really. American health insurance companies routinely reject applicants with a "preexisting condition"—precisely the people most likely to need the insurers' service. They employ armies of adjusters to deny claims. If a customer is hit by a truck and faces big medical bills, the insurer's "rescission department" digs through the records looking for grounds to cancel the policy, often while the victim is still in the hospital. The companies say they have to do this stuff to survive in a tough business.

Foreign health insurance companies, in contrast, must accept all

By T. CHRISTIAN MILLER

Special to The Washington Post



T. Christian Miller is a senior reporter for ProPublica and author of Blood Money: Wasted Billions, Lost Lives and Corporate Greed in Iraq.

"They were between a rock and a hard place."

The families' plight spurred action. Led by Morrison Knudsen, contracting firms lobbied Congress and financed a charity to help the families with mortgage bills and doctors visits. Each Christmas, the men's children were given a check for around \$9, according to a report published by the firms. The War Department directed emergency funds to the cause.

Congress, meanwhile, created the outlines of the current benefits system. The Defense Base Act was amended to require employers to provide coverage on a nearly 24-hour basis in war zones. To persuade insurers to write policies, Congress also passed the War Hazards Compensation Act in December 1942. The act reimburses carriers for injuries or deaths due to combat, lowering their risk for catastrophic expenses.

In creating the system, Congress recognized that civilian contractors played a vital part in fighting the war. Sen. Elbert D. Thomas, D-Utah, then chairman of the Senate's Education and Labor Committee, urged passage by telling fellow lawmakers that the war was everybody's business. "When once total war ... is undertaken, the sooner we bring home to our people the fact that all are responsible for the war, all might suffer by the war and therefore all should sustain the losses, the better off we will be in a social and governmental way," he said.

The sympathetic response to the Wake Island tragedy contrasts with the attitude toward contractors today. They are now often labeled as mercenaries or war profiteers. Their contributions to the war efforts are lost amid reports of six-figure salaries, murdered Iraqis and substandard construction. This month, a British security guard working for ArmorGroup was arrested by Iraqi authorities after allegedly gunning down two colleagues in the Green Zone—an action that would amount to a contractor version of fratricide.

Nearly 1,600 civilian workers have died in Iraq, and more than 35,000 have reported injuries. Since 2001, Congress has held scores of hearings for injured veterans, but only two for injured contractors. The Government Accountability Office has published more than 100 studies on veterans' benefits since March 2003. It has done two on the Defense Base Act.

Nor, with a few exceptions, have the contract firms stepped forward for their employees. No company leads a charge to fix the system. Notably silent is Washington Group International, a major contractor in Iraq. The company, which has reported 19 deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan, was once known as Morrison Knudsen. Now part of URS Corp., the company declined to answer questions about contractor deaths.

It's not surprising that neither the government nor the firms have felt much pressure to act. Many of the foreign workers and their families do not speak English. They do not have a senator to argue their case or a corporation to lobby for them. The result is an invisible, disposable army suffering its wounds in silence.

pocket for medical care; those who can't pay stay sick or die.

This fragmentation is another reason that we spend more than anybody else and still leave millions without coverage. All the other developed countries have settled on one model for health-care delivery and finance; we've blended them all into a costly, confusing bureaucratic mess.

Which, in turn, punctures the most persistent myth of all: that America has "the finest health care" in the world. We don't. In terms of results, almost all advanced countries have better national health statistics than the United States does. In terms of finance, we force 700,000 Americans into bankruptcy each year because of medical bills. In France, the number of medical bankruptcies is zero. Britain: zero. Japan: zero. Germany: zero.

Given our remarkable medical assets—the best-educated doctors and nurses, the most advanced hospitals, world-class research—the United States could be, and should be, the best in the world. To get there, though, we have to be willing to learn some lessons about health-care administration from the other industrialized democracies.

T.R. Reid, a former Washington Post reporter, is the author of The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care, to be published Monday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Palau	Showers	▲ 77 ▼ 73
Yap	Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲ 89 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 75
Majuro	Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 56
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 57
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 90 ▼ 82
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 89 ▼ 76
London	Partly Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 52
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲ 92 ▼ 64
Manila	Rain	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Rain	▲ 62 ▼ 43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 91 ▼ 79
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 70
Osaka	Showers	▲ 81 ▼ 70
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 52
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 67
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 66
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲ 78 ▼ 53
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 56
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 58
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 79 ▼ 70
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 70

Tides

		Sunrise/Sunset		Moonrise/Moonset	
Saipan Harbor		Today	6:04 AM	6:32 PM	Today
12:50 AM Today	High Tide: 1.6 Feet	Sunday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM	Sunday
9:05 AM Today	Low Tide: 0.1 Feet	Monday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM	Monday
5:07 PM Today	High Tide: 1.5 Feet	Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:29 PM	Tuesday
9:32 PM Today	Low Tide: 1.3 Feet	Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:29 PM	Wednesday

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■ ISLAND SNAPSHOT

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SAR

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

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Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2009

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7	C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
				C09312	12:00pm	1:55pm	6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM				GUAM-ROTA (ROP)			
C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7	C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
				C09312	12:10pm	1:40pm	6
SAIPAN-CUAM				GUAM-SAI PAN			
C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily	C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
				C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
				C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
				C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
				C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
				C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
				C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
C0941	5:30am	8:05am	Daily	C0942	9:25am	1:55pm	Daily
				NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
				NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
				NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily
				C0943	5:25pm	8:00pm	Daily
SAIPAN-O SAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily	CZ3007	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4,				

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral

Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center

Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish

Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish

Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish

Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota

Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota

Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleal) Parish

Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish

Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish

Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios

Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad

Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan

Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8:10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8:10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10:11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7:30pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan

Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan

Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan

Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan

Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan

Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church

Koblerville
Sunday Services 9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)

Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

AUG 29, 2000

Under new law, landowners to get full rebate

Landowners whose lands were bought by the government in cash are expected to be rebated the full amount of the tax they paid in the transaction following the signing of a new law by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. The move came amid lawmakers' concerns over potential unfair dealing when the government acquires a private land for right-of-way and other public use. Under the normal practice, landowners who opt for land exchange do not have to pay taxes in connection with the transaction, while those who agree on cash compensation are taxed.

Jones wants Corrections, Fire Divisions out of DPS

The Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations is looking at the possibility of passing a legislation that will remove the Divisions of Corrections and Fire under the Department of Public Safety. Rep. Dino Jones, chair of the committee, said the proposed measure will adopt the system in Guam where the Fire and Corrections were elevated to department level. The current setup makes it difficult for the commissioner of Department of Public Safety to allocate funds equally among the three divisions since the immediate concern is to provide priority to the Division of Police, he added.

AUG 29, 2001

Tanapag's PCB issue may reach UN Court

If the US government fails to immediately clear the areas in the Commonwealth that have been contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyl, Rep. Egidino M. Jones said that he will be forced to elevate the issue to the United Nations' International Court of Justice. During an interview yesterday, Jones said that he will be writing a letter to the United States government and the US Congress to urge them to acknowledge the PCB problem and initiate action to resolve the issue. Jones said he will send the letter "within this week."

First graders' reading literacy gauged

Public schools across the CNMI are expected to turn over next week results of the Reading diagnostic test which was administered to first grade students at the start of the school year. Public School System officials are closely watching out for the outcome, expecting the results to paint a clearer picture of first graders' reading literacy. The data is seen to help teachers plan for remedial actions, if needed, with regard to methods that would help improve first graders' reading abilities.

AUG 29, 2002

FDM bombings end today

This month's military exercises at the Farallon de Mendenilla Island end today with no advisory yet from the U.S. Navy headquarters on Guam whether the bombing exercises would be extended or a new schedule would be arranged. Emergency Management Office deputy director Mark Pangelinean, disclosed this in a telephone interview yesterday. This month's exercises comprised the first batch of trainings months after the military temporarily halted them due to an injunction by a federal court. The exercises began last August 4. Once the bombing practices end at 11pm tonight, this will give the military 375 hours in rounds of training. The exercises were being conducted daily from 8am to 11pm.

Torres pooh-poohs FTE increase at Legislature

The FTE numbers do not really matter because, one, it does not automatically mean that lawmakers will be hiring the maximum number of employees they are allowed to hire, and two, the system will be self-regulating. House Committee on Ways and Means Chair Rep. Stanley T. Torres stressed these points, as he sought to debunk a report that the Legislature is jacking up the number of its employees in the next Fiscal Year. As chairman of the ways and means panel, it was Torres's committee that prepared the FY 2003 spending plan that was eventually passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate. The bill is now being reviewed at the Office of the Governor. Torres said the increase in FTEs was only meant to reflect the maximum allowable employees that each lawmaker could hire, which he believes is pegged at 10 personnel per congressman. At the same time, with a budget of only \$155,000 per congressman, "you cannot hire 10 people on that. So, it is irrelevant to come out with a statement saying we jacked up the FTEs because, with \$155,000, you can only hire probably three to four employees because you have to reserve funds for office operations, supplies, travel, fuel, etc.," said Torres.

Business

Economy's small decline in Q2 hints recession ending

WASHINGTON (AP)—Further evidence the recession is ending came in a report Thursday confirming that the economy shrank at an annual rate of just 1 percent in the spring.

Many analysts say growth likely returned in the current quarter. Smaller dips in consumer spending and other areas during the April-June period led some economists to raise their forecasts for the July-September quarter.

But with unemployment aid claims stubbornly high, Americans may benefit little from a recovery if jobs remain scarce and spending stays too low to fuel a strong rebound.

The Commerce Department estimated that the U.S. gross domestic product, the broad-

est gauge of economic health, shrank at an annual rate of 1 percent in the second quarter. The new estimate of the nation's output of goods and services was the same as an earlier estimate released last month.

The negative figure marks a record fourth consecutive quarterly decline. But it was far smaller than the nosedive the economy had taken during the previous two quarters.

Businesses did slash inventories at an even greater rate than had been expected in the spring. But economists were encouraged by upward revisions to consumer spending, exports and housing construction. Analysts had expected the second-quarter economic figure to show a drop of 1.5 percent,

Japan's unemployment rate hits record high in July '09

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's unemployment rate rose to an all-time high in July, and prices fell at a record pace, the government said Friday.

The jobless rate in the world's No. 2 economy hit a seasonally adjusted 5.7 percent, the highest level in the post-World War II era and worsening from 5.4 percent in June, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications. The previous record was 5.5 percent, last hit in April 2003.

The total number of jobless in July jumped 40.2 percent from a year earlier to 3.59 million. Those with employment fell 2.1 percent to 62.7 million.

The labor ministry also reported Friday that the ratio of job of-

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Boeing sets new test flight date for delayed 787

Boeing says its 787 aircraft will be ready for its first test flight by the end of this year and its initial delivery in the last three months of 2010, sending its shares higher as it gives some clarity to a program that has been delayed five times already. Boeing originally scheduled the 787's first test flight for the fall of 2007. But production problems have forced the company to postpone trial flights of the next-generation passenger jet. The first delivery to Japan's All Nippon Airways Co. is now more than two years behind its original schedule.

Facebook agrees with Canada on privacy controls

TORONTO (AP)—Facebook agreed Thursday to give users more control over the information they share with outside applications like games and quizzes in response to concerns raised by Canadian privacy officials. Cur-

rently, people who wish to use such software have to agree to share all their data with the application. With the changes, the application developer will have to specify ahead of time which categories of data the software needs. Users will have the opportunity to hold back certain pieces of information when they approve access.

Toyota plans to end production at Calif. plant

WASHINGTON (AP)—Toyota Motor Corp. said Thursday it plans to end production in March 2010 at a California joint venture where it has built vehicles with General Motors. The decision would mean the shutdown of the sole auto assembly plant on the West Coast if no other carmaker emerges to keep it going. Toyota's board voted early Thursday to end the company's production contract at the Fremont, Calif.-based New United Motor Manufacturing Inc., spokeswoman Cindy Knight confirmed.

Nation

Sen. Kennedy's body takes final poignant tour

BOSTON (AP)—Sen. Edward M. Kennedy began his final journey Thursday, first past landmark after landmark bearing his family's famous name and then to his slain brother's presidential library where mourners lined up by the thousands to bid farewell to him and an American political dynasty.

Crowds assembled along the

70-mile route that snaked from the family's compound in Hyannis Port to the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, where his body lay in repose. More than 20,000 people waited in line to file past his closed casket and mark the end of a national political chapter that was equal parts triumph and tragedy.

Kennedy's widow, Vicki,

who greeted well-wishers filing past the casket, said the outpouring was deeply moving for the family.

"I just want to thank them so much for coming this evening and showing love and support for my husband," she said. "It's a tremendous solace to all our family."

For many, it was hard to untangle Kennedy's larger-than-

life role as statesman from his role as neighbor and local celebrity, whether he was taking a turn conducting the Boston Pops or throwing out the first

pitch for the Red Sox.

"It was Teddy's home team. It just seemed appropriate to leave him the cap," said James Jenner, 28, placing a Sox cap he

was wearing near the entrance to the library. "It symbolizes everything that he loved about his home state and everything he was outside the Senate."

Shirtless man hijacks, crashes Atlanta school bus

ATLANTA (AP)—A shirtless man leaped through the window of an Atlanta school bus with about a dozen students aboard Thursday, overpowered the driver to take the wheel, then left the bus driverless as it careened down a steep hill, authorities said.

As the bus plunged, screaming students bounded out of the emergency exit in the back, said Atlanta Public Schools spokesman Keith Bromery. Two students and the bus driver were injured, but not seriously, police said.

By the time 23-year-old suspect Arris Pitmon was arrested after the crash, he was naked, police said. A witness said the

man lost his pants while trying to escape from bystanders, revealing only a condom.

"This was a weirdo," said witness Corey Turner. "Something was wrong with this guy. We turned him over and he just had a condom on. Maybe he was stripping or something - I had no earthly idea."

Pitmon jumped into the stopped bus as a student from Forest Hills Academy, which is grades seven through 12, was being dropped off in a southeast Atlanta neighborhood, said Atlanta Police Officer James Polite. He took control of the steering wheel, then left the seat to chase the driver, who had run to the

rear, the officer said.

A student tried to take the wheel, but Polite said Pitmon fought him to regain control of the bus. The bus continued forward, left the roadway and crashed through a fence, finally stopping at a wall about 175 feet off the pavement about 4 p.m.

The 38-year-old Turner, who owns a small landscaping company, said he was cutting grass at a nearby church when he saw kids abandoning the bus, which looked like it was going about 25 mph.

One of the girls ran up to him and begged for help - "and everything went berserk," he said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Pastor's body was put into unnatural pose

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Whoever killed a pastor inside her small Oklahoma church "staged" the body, authorities said Thursday, meaning it was moved into an unnatural position after the slaying. Police would not elaborate, however, on how the body of 61-year-old Carol Daniels was positioned inside the Christ Holy Sanctified Church in Anadarko. Authorities have said they are not ruling out the possibility that the killer specifically targeted a pastor or a church. Investigators are also reviewing video surveillance tapes from a nearby convenience store for clues in the brutal killing, said Jessica Brown, a spokeswoman for the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation.

Transgender Vt. teen wants genderless bathrooms

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP)—A transgender teenager is lending his voice to a movement in Vermont to require the state's middle and high schools to offer genderless bathrooms. Kyle Giard-Chase, 16, asked the Vermont Human Rights Commission on Thursday to endorse the effort. He said that before he came out last year as transgendered, he was a three-sport athlete and the co-captain of the field hockey team, a girls' sport, at South Burlington High School. At an away game, he said he was verbally harassed and threatened by the members of the host school's football team for using the girls' restroom. "The harassment only stopped when I was reduced to tears and told them I was in fact a female," said Kyle, now a senior.

Calif. firefighters battle wilderness blazes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—California firefighters working in withering heat battled wildfires Thursday in rugged mountains above the foothill suburbs of Los Angeles, in the central coast region and on the outskirts of Yosemite National Park. Weather plagued fire crews as temperatures in some areas rose toward triple digits and humidity levels headed downward. For a second day, the National Weather Service issued a red flag warning of extreme

fire conditions for many of California's central and southern mountain ranges. No major structural losses were reported.

Mom in Pa.-to-Fla. abduction hoax gets prison time

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. (AP)—A white suburban mother who placed a 911 call claiming two black men had carjacked her—but instead flew to Disney World with her child to escape a looming arrest—was sent to prison Thursday for nine to 23 months. Bonnie Sweeten, 38, pleaded guilty in Bucks County Court to identity theft and filing a false police report, misdemeanors that typically bring probation. But a judge offended by Sweeten's performance on a 911 tape said her hoax led to a frantic national search, traumatized her daughter and, perhaps worst of all, tore open society's racial wounds.

NTSB: Controller didn't warn plane in midair crash

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal safety officials say an air traffic controller should have warned the pilot of a small plane that collided with a helicopter over the Hudson River that there were other aircraft in his path. The accident earlier this month near New York City killed nine people. The National Transportation Safety Board said in a letter released Thursday that if the controller at Teterboro Airport in New Jersey had been following procedures he would have warned the pilot of the other traffic in his path. The controller was talking on the phone to a female friend at the time of the crash.

Pregnant women, new parents urged to get vaccine

WASHINGTON (AP)—Health officials are stressing that it is vital for pregnant women and new parents to get the swine flu vaccine to protect themselves and their children. In the words of Tina Johnson of the American College of Nurse-Midwives: "By not getting the flu yourself, you are going to protect your children better." Dr. Anne Schuchat of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said at a briefing Thursday that women of any trimester should get the vaccine.



MOON ROCKET

Launch Systems Engineers with ATK Launch Systems prepare for a test firing of the five-segment first stage of the Ares-1 rocket, Aug. 27, 2009. A mechanical failure forced a NASA contractor on Thursday to call off the first test firing of the main part of NASA's powerful new moon rocket. The test wasn't immediately rescheduled as officials scrambled to learn the root cause of the failure. Alliant Techsystems Inc. called off the rocket burn with just 20 seconds left on the countdown clock. Operators cited failure of a power unit that drives hydraulic tilt controls for the rocket's nozzle. The rocket was anchored to the ground in a horizontal position for the test. It was a setback for a carefully staged, \$75 million event that drew thousands of onlookers.

Woman kidnapped as child resurfaces 18 years later

PLACERVILLE, Calif. (AP)—Joyous, miraculous news that a little girl kidnapped nearly two decades ago was found alive gave way Thursday to the horrifying details of how police say she has lived all those years: kept in captivity by a convicted rapist in his backyard and forced to bear two of his children.

Jaycee Lee Dugard, who was 11 in 1991 when she was snatched from her school bus stop, was locked away from the outside world behind a series of fences, sheds and tents in the back of a suburban home.

Her abductor, investigators said, raped her and fathered two children with her, the first when Jaycee was about 14. Those children, both girls now 11 and 15, also were kept hidden away in the backyard compound.

"None of the children have ever been to school, they've never been to a doctor," El Dorado County Undersheriff Fred Kollar said. "They were kept in complete isolation in this compound."

Dugard, now 29, appeared at a parole office Wednesday with her children and the couple ac-



This family photo released by Carl Probyn on Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009, shows his stepdaughter, Jaycee Lee Dugard, who went missing in 1991.

cused of kidnapping her. She was reunited Thursday with her mother, but the family was also learning that their smiling, blue-eyed, blonde ponytailed little girl had spent most of her life in captivity.

"She was in good health, but living in a backyard for the past 18 years does take its toll," Kollar said.

The backyard compound had electricity from extension cords and a rudimentary outhouse and shower, "as if you were camping," Kollar said.

Convicted sex offender Phillip Garrido, 58, was being held for investigation of various kidnapping and sex charges. His wife, Nancy Garrido, 54, was also arrested, and authorities said she was with Garrido during the kidnapping in South Lake Tahoe.

Garrido was on lifetime parole and his arrest raises questions about how closely parolees are monitored. But Kollar said a parole officer who had visited Garrido's house previously had not noticed anything amiss—the compound was well concealed by shrubs, garbage cans and a tarp.

"You can't see over the fence with the shrubbery and the trees. You can't see the structures," Kollar said.

Neighbor Helen Boyer, 78, described the Garridos as nice and friendly and said they cared for Phillip Garrido's elderly mother.

Asia

Bomber hits key Pakistani border crossing; 19 dead

A local resident looks at a burning Pakistani tanker which was carrying fuel for NATO forces fighting in Afghanistan, after it was allegedly attacked by militants in an area of Pakistani Khyber tribal region, Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2009.

AP



PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A suicide bomber attacked the main border crossing for convoys ferrying supplies to U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan on Thursday, killing at least 19 security officers, officials said.

The strike will raise fears the Pakistani Taliban is regrouping and making good on its word

to carry out revenge attacks following the slaying of its leader, Baitullah Mehsud, in a CIA missile strike earlier this month.

Also in the border region, two U.S. missiles hit a suspected militant compound, killing six people, the latest in a string of such attacks, intelligence officials said.

Pakistan's lawless border with

Afghanistan is a main front in the battle against al-Qaida and the Taliban, who are destabilizing both countries. Under heavy U.S. pressure, the Pakistani military has launched ground offensives and air attacks on the insurgents in recent months, but much of the region remains under militant control.

Farmer suicides have, over the past decade, become a grim ritual in Andhra Pradesh and other parts of the Indian agricultural heartland, where small farmers are increasingly in debt. The sums can appear barely consequential to a Westerner, or even to India's increasingly large middle class: \$300, \$500, \$1,200.

Nearly every day, newspapers report more farmer suicides in Andhra Pradesh, a state of 80 million people where 70 percent of the population depends on

agriculture—and which has suffered badly this year from weak monsoon rains.

Officially, the total number of suicides stands at 25 in the past six weeks. But opposition parties and farmers' groups say the true total is more than 150.

"The government is trying to hide the facts," opposition leader N. Chandrababu Naidu said Wednesday in a speech before the state assembly. "I have a list of the names and addresses

for reuniting families long separated by the Korean War and to close a rift over whether the deal should include prisoners of war Seoul says are still held in the North. Red Cross officials from the two sides were expected to reach an agreement on family reunions Friday at the end of three days of talks, offering rare opportunities for hundreds of people, mostly in their 70s and 80s, to temporarily meet loved ones at the North's Diamond Mountain resort.

Ethnic group in Myanmar said to break cease-fire

BANGKOK (AP)—Fighting reportedly broke out Thursday between an ethnic militia and government security forces in northeastern Myanmar, breaching a two-decade cease-fire. Several minorities living in military-ruled Myanmar's border areas have continued their long struggles for autonomy despite cease-fires with the military regime that seized power in 1988. Fighters for the Myanmar

National Democratic Alliance Army—representing the Kokang minority—on Thursday attacked a police post along the border with China near the town of Laogai, according to the U.S. Campaign for Burma.

China denounces Taiwan visit by Dalai Lama

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—China on Thursday denounced Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou's decision to allow the Dalai Lama to visit the self-ruled island, casting a shadow over rapidly improving relations between Taipei and Beijing. However, Beijing appeared to stop short of deliberately undermining Ma's stature and jeopardizing the budding ties across the 100-mile wide Taiwan Strait. Ma said Thursday he was approving the Dalai Lama's visit because it could help ease the island's pain after the devastation of Typhoon Morakot, the storm that struck Taiwan earlier this month at the cost of an estimated 670 lives.

ASIAN BRIEFS

July, August deadliest months of Afghan war for US

KABUL (AP)—A roadside bomb and gunfire attack killed a U.S. service member in southern Afghanistan on Thursday, a death that pushed August into a tie with July as the deadliest months of the eight-year war. The death brought to 44 the number of U.S. troops who have died in Afghanistan this month with four days left in August. More than 60,000 U.S. troops are in the country—a record number—to fight rising insurgent violence. The number of roadside bombs deployed by militants across the country has skyrocketed, and U.S. forces have moved into new and deadlier areas this summer, in part to help secure the country's Aug. 20 presidential election.

Koreas work toward deal to restart family reunions

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North and South Korea worked Thursday to finalize a schedule

World

Senior Saudi prince slightly injured in assassination try

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia

(AP)—A suicide bomber lightly wounded a senior prince largely credited for Saudi Arabia's anti-terrorism campaign when he blew himself up just before going into a gathering of well-wishers for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, the state news agency said Friday.

It was the first known assassination attempt against a member of the royal family since Saudi Arabia began its crackdown on al-Qaida affiliated militants eight years ago following the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States.

The militant who attacked the assistant interior minister,

Prince Muhammad bin Nayef, late Thursday at the Ramadan gathering in Jiddah had previously expressed his intention to give himself up to the official, the Saudi Press Agency quoted the royal court as saying.

It is customary for senior members of the royal family to hold regular open gatherings where citizens can air grievances, seek settlement of financial or other disputes or offer congratulations.

Upon hearing news of the attack, King Abdullah swiftly headed to hospital, according to the agency. It said the prince, who is the son of Interior Minister Prince Nayef,

was discharged from the hospital and nobody else was seriously injured.

The Interior Ministry has spearheaded the kingdom's aggressive campaign against terrorism, one that has intensified since militants first struck in the kingdom in May 2003. The country is the birthplace of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden and was home to 15 of the 19 Sept. 11 hijackers.

On Aug. 19, authorities announced the arrest of 44 suspected militants with al-Qaida links in a yearlong sweep that also uncovered dozens of machine guns and electronic circuits for bombs.



HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN

Jordanian Muslim children enjoy a free meal at Takyet Um Ali, a charity association offers hot meals for the poor people, on the Fifth day of the Muslim Holy Month of Ramadan, in Amman, Jordan, Aug. 26, 2009. Muslims throughout the world are celebrating the holy month of Ramadan, where observants fast from dawn till dusk.

WORLD BRIEFS

Nazi death camp blueprints given to Israel

BERLIN (AP)—Sketched on yellowing parchment, the 29 blueprints presented to Israel's prime minister Thursday lay out the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz in chilling detail, with gas chambers, crematoria, delousing facilities and watch towers drawn to scale. "There are those who deny that the Holocaust happened," Benjamin Netanyahu said as he accepted the documents as a gift to Israel's Holocaust memorial, where they will go on display next year. "Let them come to Jerusalem and look at these plans, these plans for the factory of death." Netanyahu lingered over the large sheets spread on a table. The Israeli leader was accompanied by his wife, Sara.

Horse flies through windshield, injuring driver

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A horse flew through a car windshield, knocking the driver in the face after the woman swerved to miss two other horses that had bolted in front of her car. "I thought the body was the air bag that had gone off," Catherine Lawrence, 74, told the New Zealand Herald after her accident near the city of Nelson on South Island. Much of the car's roof was peeled away in the collision, which killed the horse. "The horse hit me on the corner right in front of me," she was quoted as saying. "But he didn't come straight back—he went across and he just grazed me, knocking his ... hooves into my face on the way through, and his head was

on the back and the rest of him was piled up beside me on the passenger's seat."

Nicaragua in health emergency on swine flu upswing

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP)—The government of Nicaragua has declared a 60-day health emergency because of an upswing in the number of swine flu cases and deaths. Health Minister Guillermo Gonzalez tells the Radio Ya station that the measure was declared after the number of accumulated cases rose to 840 cases in August, and four women died. Gonzalez said Thursday that most of the victims have been released from hospitals. But the Central American nation suffered its first swine flu-related death on Aug. 14.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, August 29, 2009

Over 7K OFWs on Saipan register for polls

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan estimates that there are over 7,000 Filipinos on the islands who are qualified to participate in next year's

elections as absentee voters.

The total number would be known Tuesday since the consulate is expecting more Filipinos to beat the deadline on Sunday.

Some 600 new absentee voters have registered since Feb. 1, 2009, including a total of 33 who visited the consulate yesterday.

Registration deadline is on Sunday, Aug. 30, from 10am to 3pm.

The Philippine Consulate General will be open on that day to accommodate those who want to beat the deadline.

Last Monday, new Philippine Consul General Medardo G.

Macaraig encouraged his countrymen on Saipan to register and join the political exercise.

Macaraig issued his appeal over the radio with Jimmy B of KWAW Monday evening.

These new registrants may now participate in the Philippine national elections under

the Overseas Voting Act of 2003 (Republic Act 9189).

During the first two months when the OAV became law, some 2,000 Filipinos in the CNMI registered for the 2005 national elections but only about 30 percent or less than 3,000 actually voted.

The next national election is

on May 10, 2010, when Filipinos vote for a president, vice president, 12 senators and one party-list representative.

Meanwhile, the consulate will be closed on Monday because it is an official holiday in the Philippines, in observance of National Heroes Day.

Pinoy hosts Saipan segment on ABC Channel 7

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Reynaldo Gabriel, more popularly known on the island as "Hapi the Clown," is branching out into new territory as host of a television show on a local channel.

Gabriel, who usually plays the clown in children's birthday parties, is the host of a new segment about Saipan on ABC's Channel 7 called "Hapi Greetings." The program is produced by Digital Motion.

"The focus of this show is about the island's lifestyles like weddings, cultural shows and a lot of social activities and gatherings," said Gabriel, a native of Tacloban City in central Philippines.

Gabriel is also coordinating

the upcoming presentation of two standup comedians, Vice Ganda and Ogie Diaz from the Philippines, titled "Kambal sa Tawa" at the Taga Hall of Saipan World Resort on Sept. 19.

"Hapi Greetings" had its first airing on Aug. 7, featuring the wedding of Kurt Sablan and Michelle Jimenez.

Jimenez is the younger sister of Mt. Carmel School superintendent Rev. Fr. Ryan Jimenez while Sablan is advertising manager for the *Saipan Tribune*.

"Hapi Greetings" is shown on the first week of each

month. Live airing is at 7pm Friday and a replay on Saturday, also at 7pm.

The next airing will be on Sept. 4 for the live show (Friday, 7pm) and Sept. 5 for the replay (Saturday, 7pm).

The show will feature recent events on the island like the car show, 3-on-3 basketball, the Summer Jam and Glam, (set tomorrow at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort and Spa), some birthday parties, weddings and other social activities.

Digital Motion production manager Edwin Sta. Theresa said

they get free airtime for the show in exchange for producing it.

The show's sponsors include IT&E, Marpac and Glimpses of Saipan.

"We conceptualized this project as a team to help upgrade television offerings on Saipan," Sta. Theresa said.

Cameraman Erwin Suguitan is also the show's graphic artist and editor.

Digital Motion also produces the show "Cooking With Colors" on KSPN channel, in partnership with the Department of Public Health.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

UFO CAGING FANS

From left, Carl Esdrelon, Joseph Yanto, Jericho Rosales, and Rico Morales, pose for *Saipan Tribune* during the halftime break in a playoff game in the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League at the JP Center Basketball Court.

CREAM urges voter registration for Nov. polls

The Coalition for Recognition, Equality and Advancement of American Ethnic Minorities, CREAM, is calling all U.S. citizens of ethnic decent (Filipinos, Chinese, Koreans, Bangladeshis, Japanese and other nationalities) to register with the CNMI Election Commission to exercise their right to vote and voice their choice through the ballot in the coming Nov. 7 general elections.

CREAM is encouraging voters, especially first time voters who will turn 18 on Election Day, to register. All those who failed to vote in 2005 and 2007 are also encouraged to register with the Election Commission on Capital Hill from Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm and at Price-Costco on Saturday from 9am to 1pm. Bring a copy of your birth certificate and passport for verification and registration.

Last day to register for the November 2009 general election is Sept. 18, 2009.

Contact any of the following telephone numbers to assist you: 483-3138, 484-0727, 285-9374, 287-4424 and 287-4474. (PR)

US denies troops involved in combat in Philippines

By HRVOJE HRANSKI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—U.S. officials on Friday denied American troops were violating Philippine laws by engaging in combat against Muslim militants, saying they were only training Filipino soldiers and their mission was temporary.

Allegations that U.S. troops in the southern Philippines are building permanent structures and joining the fight against al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militants have roiled nationalist and left-wing forces opposed to

the American presence.

A retired Philippine navy lieutenant, Nancy Gadian, testified at a congressional hearing Thursday that U.S. troops were embedded with Filipino units in combat situations in violation of the Philippine Constitution, which bars foreign troops from fighting in the country.

"U.S. forces are not involved in combat operations," U.S. Embassy spokeswoman Rebecca Thompson said in a statement Friday. She said American troops were on temporary deployment at the invitation of the Philippine military and government.

Several hundred U.S. troops have been stationed in several southern posts since 2002, training Filipino counterparts and sharing intelligence in their fight against the Abu Sayyaf, blamed for kidnappings, beheadings of hostages and bomb attacks that have victimized Filipinos and Americans.

Gadian was a planning officer for an annual U.S.-Philippine military exercise and was facing an investigation for alleged embezzlement when she accused her superiors of pocketing money. She later accused U.S. troops of violating Philippine laws.

Q: What is an administrative warrant?

A: In the event that an employer refuses consent for an inspection or if Labor's inspection will exceed the scope or frequency of the inspections, the Labor Secretary or a designee may seek an administrative warrant from the Labor's Administrative Hearing Office.

The Labor's Administrative Hearing Office will grant an administrative warrant if Labor demonstrates to the satisfaction of a Labor administrative hearing officer that one of the following standards has been met:

■ The worksite has been chosen for an inspection on the basis of a general administrative plan derived from neutral criteria for the enforcement of CNMI labor laws and regulations.

■ Labor has presented evidence establishing reasonable suspicion of a recent, ongoing or imminent violation of this chapter, regulations, the Minimum Wage and Hour Act, or any other Commonwealth law protecting the health and safety of employees, at the worksite for which the administrative warrant is sought.

■ Labor has presented evidence that the employer has been cited for a violation of CNMI Labor laws or regulations within the past 12 months at the worksite in question, and the past violation is one that is easily repeated, easily concealed, and poses a risk to the health and safety of one or more employees.

Disclaimer: Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice. *Saipan Tribune* will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to *Saipan Tribune* via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the *Saipan Tribune*'s office on the second floor of the JP Center on Beach Road, Garapan.

Philippine economy expands after Q1 contraction

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine economy expanded 2.4 percent in the second quarter, skirting recession as construction and mining combined with government and private spending spurred growth, officials said Thursday.

The second-quarter recovery means the Philippines has “effectively avoided the recession” that had threatened the economy when it contracted a revised 2.1 percent in the first quarter from the previous quarter, said Romulo Virola, head of the National

Statistics Coordination Board.

Economists say two consecutive quarters of quarter-on-quarter contraction in gross domestic product signal a recession.

Other export-dependent Asian economies including Japan, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand broke out of recession in the latest quarter after getting a lift from government stimulus.

Year-on-year GDP growth slowed from 4.2 percent to 1.5 percent, Virola said in a statement. GDP expanded 1 percent in the first half from the

same period in 2008.

Strong performances by the mining, quarrying and construction sectors led industry to recover from a 6.9 percent contraction in the first quarter. Growth in the services sector, the key source of domestic growth, accelerated from the previous quarter.

Consumer spending rose and government expenditure leapt as part of an economic stimulus plan.

Exports, which account for a third of the economy, sank 16.7 percent from a year earlier—the

biggest drop since the fourth quarter of 1998. Imports declined 2.7 percent from nearly zero growth in the previous year.

Economic officials said they expected full-year GDP growth of between 0.8 percent and 1.8 percent, down from 4.6 percent in 2008.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves expressed hope that the economic recovery will result in more private sector investment and jobs. He said the government was ready to increase spending on quality projects.

RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARDEES

The 2009 Ramon Magsaysay awardees, Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize, pose for the media during a press presentation Thursday Aug. 27, 2009 in Manila, Philippines. The awards come with a medallion and US\$50,000 is given annually to “Asia's Heroes” in honor of the late President Ramon Magsaysay. From left, Yu Xiaogang of China, Deep Joshi of India, Krisana Kraisintu of Thailand, Ma Jun of China, Antonio Oposa Jr. of the Philippines, and Ka Hsaw Wa of Myanmar also known as Burma.



AP

Wear yellow, Sen Aquino tells supporters

By MAILA AGER
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Paint the town yellow if you want Senator Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III to run for a higher post in 2010.

Aquino, son of the late President Corazon Aquino and martyred Senator Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino Jr., made this call in his continued search for an answer to the increasing clamor for him to either run for president or vice president next year.

“Wear something yellow on your person, notes, with your ID, panglagay sa bahay, sa sasakyang para mapakita na marami tayo ditong umaasa at magkocommit na babaguhin natin itong ating bayan [something that you can put in your

house, in your car so that we can show that there are a lot of you who are committed to change the country],” he told reporters.

“The signature campaign is good but wearing that yellow, pwedeng yellow ribbon para mas klaro baka naman sabihing nagkataon lang na naka yellow, talagang nagko-commit ka [it could be a yellow ribbon to show your commitment because some might say that their



Aquino

get the support of the people.

“If this is only my ambition, pointless. If a lot of people will share the ambition of where we want to go, then that's a certainty. But if I will be the obstacle that will prevent this certainty, I will not (in the way). If I am alone, then this nothing. It's like asking for the moon,” he said in Filipino.

Calls for the senator to seek a higher post have been mounting since the death of his mom.

But the young Aquino has been reluctant to accept the challenge, citing the emotional state of his four siblings—Bally, Pinky, Viel, and Kris.

“I am the most sensitive.

When my mom and my sisters cry. What if all four cry on me? It's like three-fourths of our lives have been devoted to this and we are no longer young ...” he said.

But he is confident that his family will heed the call of the people once they see the genuine clamor for him to continue the legacy of his parents.

“I think if they see that there is really a clamor, then we have an obligation that we have to fulfill and my sisters will not back down. What I am hoping for is that their decision will be something that will come from their hearts,” he said.

At this point, Senator Aquino said, he and his family were praying and consulting many people to help them make the right decision.

will be agile and flexible enough to adapt to the new economic climate,” company president Jaime J. Bautista said in a statement. He said the airline industry has been one of the hardest hit by the global recession. The statement said the company will take “decisive steps” to restructure after last month reporting losses of \$301.4 million for its fiscal year ended March 2009. It had net profit of \$30.6 million in the previous year. The airline did not specify how many of its 8,000-plus employees would be offered early retirement.

MMDA chief told to explain cash gifts

MANILA, Philippines—Malacañang Thursday asked Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando to explain the cash birthday gifts amounting to P1.6 million he received from executive committee members of the Metro Manila Film Festival. “Perhaps, he should be made to explain about the allegation so he could also clear his name,” Lorelei Fajardo, deputy presidential spokesperson, said. “Because if it is indeed true that he violated the law, the law should apply to everyone.” Fernando, known to have plans of running for president in next year’s elections, earlier did not deny receiving the cash gifts he received from the MMFF in four years and maintained that there was nothing wrong with getting the amount. (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*)

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Philippines to allow emergency transit of refugees

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines will allow refugees at risk to stay pending their resettlement in a third country under an agreement signed Thursday. The Philippines has hosted some 500,000 refugees, mostly from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, over the past four decades. Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo signed the Memorandum of Agreement on the Emergency Transit of Refugees to assure better protection for refugees and address emergency resettlement situations, according to a statement from the Department of Foreign Affairs. The agreement provides a legal framework for the transit of refugees at risk, allowing them to be evacuated to the Philippines quickly before they are resettled elsewhere, department spokesman Ed Malaya said.

Philippine Airlines to cut workers after big loss

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—National carrier Philippine Airlines said Thursday it will cut its work force by offering early retirement as a cost-cutting measure after suffering more than \$301 million in losses. “We want to make PAL lean and mean so it

Estrada says Mancao story a demolition job

By MICHAEL LIM UBAC
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—All “hearsay” and part of a “demolition” job amid survey results showing him he was among the front-runners in the 2010 presidential race, ousted leader Joseph Estrada said Thursday.

This was his reaction to the testimony of former Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao on Wednesday that then President Estrada ordered the killing of publicist Salvador “Bubby” Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito in 2000.

“These are very (plain and) simple hearsay and at the same time a demolition [job],” Estrada said.

The deposed President said “Mancao even admitted that he never talked to me... The truth of the matter (is) I didn't know him.”

He claimed that the allegation was “another diversionary tactic to forget the \$20,000 dinner (of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at Le Cirque in New York last month),” he said at the Kapihan sa Senado.

Estrada even issued a side comment that the Inquirer had higher street sales Thursday because of the banner story, which focused on Mancao's court testimony that the then President was the brains behind the double murder.

In a 15-minute testimony before Judge Myra Fernandez of Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 18,



Estrada

Mancao confirmed the contents of his affidavit on the existence of “Operation Delta” and his role in the twin murders.

Mancao also told the court that Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who was then chief of the Philippine National Police, had received direct orders from Malacañang to “neutralize” Dacer, according to Mancao's lawyer Ferdinand Topacio.

“This is not surprising anymore because we don't know if this has something to do with the improvement in my survey ratings. Be that as it may, I can't really understand why I was implicated in this Dacer-Corbito case,” Estrada said.

The former President said his family was not known to be murderers.

“As far as I'm concerned, wala sa lahi namin yan ha (Our family is not into this). First of all, Mr. Dacer is a very, very close friend of mine,” he said.

Estrada said that Dacer was already his buddy when he was still mayor of San Juan, and that he even stood as godfather at the baptism of one of Dacer's daughters.

He recounted that Dacer and his daughters had met with him in Malacañang a day before the public relations practitioner disappeared.

“We even had snacks, so what is the motive to link me to the slaying of my kumpare (male buddy) Bubby Dacer. So what is the motive? Why would I make that order?” Estrada said.

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Living in paradise is the job from hell

By JOHN M. GLIONNA
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

PUERTO PRINCESA, Philippines—Roel Robles had been on Pagasa Island for less than a week when he found himself wondering, with something like despair: Is it possible for one white-beached, palm-studded place to be both heaven and hell, paradise and prison?

“When you first get there, you see this little island resort,” said the 30-year-old sergeant in the Philippine National Police. “Then after about five days, something snaps. You begin telling yourself, ‘I have to get out of here—now, today.’”

Pagasa plays tricks with your mind.

Its few dozen inhabitants can walk around the pint-sized perimeter in 30 minutes. From its highest point, 9 feet above sea level, they gaze out at turquoise seas all around.

It's a stunning view. But it's the same view, day after day.

For the government in Manila, however, all that matters is that it's a Philippine view.

Pagasa may be a 75-acre speck of sand and rock, but that hasn't stopped a swarm of countries from battling over the hundreds of specks of sand and rock that make up the Spratlys, which may be the most disputed island chain on Earth.

So, in 2002, the Philippines decided to establish a small colony of hardy civilian settlers on the island, augmenting the two dozen military workers who earn special “loneliness pay” to live on the far-off spot—and bolstering its claim that possession is nine-tenths of the law.

The result is sort of “Cast Away” meets Plymouth Rock.

In a nation where half the 90 million residents endure grinding poverty, Pagasa volunteers get free food and housing and guaranteed work. But there's also guaranteed boredom. Many inhabitants consider the calendar their worst enemy. Others mark off time on the wall like stir-crazy convicts.

With a main port named Loneliness Bay, the island can take such a psychological toll that one inhabitant stabbed himself just to escape it. Another hanged himself two days after he arrived.

“The happiest day on Pagasa is when the boat comes to take you off,” said Robles, who after three months on the island last year has returned home here, only to dread his next Pagasa assignment. “Next is seeing the plane arrive with supplies. The sound of those engines means cigarettes and alcohol.”

Vietnam, China, the Philippines, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei all claim part of the Spratly archipelago, which spreads across a lonely stretch of the South China Sea west of the Philippines. Some have based military outposts there to safeguard their interests.

There's talk of a United Nations resolution to settle the turf battle over the island group, thought to be rich in oil and gas deposits as well as virgin fishing grounds.

The Philippines claims nine islands in the so-called Kalayaan group. Pagasa, which means “hope” in Tagalog, is the largest and the only one with a year-round population.

It's a sun-bleached settlement of 20 houses, a community center and a clinic run by a resident midwife. There are no stores and no roads, and a military landing strip is the predominant structure.

The population rises and falls. At its height, 300 people lived there. Nowadays the total is 55 civilians, fewer than half a dozen of them women.

Pagasa even has its own mayor. Of course, gray-haired and garrulous Rosendo Mantis doesn't actually live on Pagasa; he keeps an of-

fice in the capital city of the larger island of Palawan and travels out to press the flesh and check on his constituency. Mantis is the island's chief promoter, but even he acknowledges that Pagasa is an acquired taste.

“Most people who have problems there just miss their families,” he said. “Basically, they go crazy.”

By his own account, Mantis first hatched the inspired idea to bring women and civilians to Pagasa Island. As a navy commander there years ago, he was, along with his men, driven to distraction by the celibate life.

“There was little communication with the mainland,” Mantis, 56, recalled of the military stints, which can last for eight months or more. “When we heard a woman's voice on the line, all of our ears perked up. We were very happy.”

Soon, Mantis brought his family for a visit. At first he worried for the safety of his daughters on an island populated by restless men.

The trip was a success, setting the stage for an-

They were greeted by typhoons that drove them indoors for weeks, preventing them from catching the fish that soon became a staple of their diets.

In the toughest times, they slaughter a pig or goat, but when fish are scarce they live off canned corned beef and sardines.

Telephones and satellite TV are powered by generators that run only part time. Air-conditioning is nonexistent, and on the hottest days many people wonder why they ever came in the first place.

“Sometimes, when the phones were down, I'd lie in bed and think about my girlfriend back home,” said National Police Sgt. Hermar Medina, 27. “I'd get bored and let my mind wander. And then I'd get freaked out.”

Army Lt. Ace Ronald Ampong kept a blog of his eight months on Pagasa in 2008—entries full of pain and wonder.

Ampong wrote of being “filled with serenity by the exquisiteness of silence and the noise of nature like waves, birds, breeze and even raindrops.”

But nights, he wrote, were hard. Fellow soldiers “learned to compose lyrics in a melody of going

home. One of them even cried because of loneliness, hoping that death would soon come.”

Soldiers try to keep the mood light by staging a male beauty contest. In his office in Puerto Princesa, Mantis flipped through photos of the events. “Many are quite convincing,” he said.

Mantis says he likes Pagasa's alternative lifestyle: He once oversaw a mass wedding of six island couples. (So far, one baby has been born on the island, but many more have been “assembled” there, he says.)

The mayor also screens new island volunteers, warily weeding out potential troublemakers who might view Pagasa as a way to escape creditors, the law or a bad marriage.

His first question: “Why do you want to live there?”

When he leaves office next year, Mantis plans to live on Pagasa full time to pursue establishing a year-round tourist resort.

Roel Robles questions the sanity of that decision: “I wouldn't live there if you paid me a million dollars.”



Source: ESRI

Los Angeles Times

other brainstorm: “Why not found a community there?”

The Philippine government had sought to better secure its claim on Pagasa and the surrounding Islands. So, in 2002, officials staged visits for prospective new residents, like an island version of a time-share pitch weekend.

There were few takers. So officials did the next best thing: They ordered civil employees in Puerto Princesa to replace them for at least three months. Those who refused were fired.

In a boat that they dubbed Noah's Ark, 100 employees set sail with 200 chickens, 23 pigs, 20 goats, four turkeys and two puppies.

Island life was hard from the beginning, Mantis recalled. Residents ate and slept together, “communist style.” Everyone was assigned a job, horticulture or fishing.

“You had to work to eat,” Mantis said. “I didn't want to feed a bunch of lazy people.”

In return, settlers received free food, housing, electricity and medical care. “Everything is free on Pagasa,” Mantis said. “Still, people complained. I guess that's normal.”

Eventually, volunteers took the place of the employees, all of whom left after their assignment.

TAKE CHARGE

Buying cheap is not always a bargain

Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: I recently bought a laptop at an online forum for buyers and sellers. It seemed like a good deal—it had all the features I am looking for and it costs 50 percent less than the exact brand new unit. The seller advertised it as “slightly used” but “in good condition.” Now that I am using it, I found that the DVD drive is not working, and it runs so slow. I want to return it, but wondering if that is possible since I bought it at a secondhand market. Please advise.—Tim

Answer: Shopping in this 21st century has certainly become more convenient for everyone—with just a click of a mouse, you can buy anything and everything on the Internet from books to apparel to plane tickets to music to gadgets and more.

While this may be good, one must be cautious about buying on the Internet, especially if what you're buying are secondhand items or items with no warranty. Come to think of it, this caveat is also for those buying at real brick and mortar stores.

Secondhand items may seem to be “in good condition” to the seller, but since this is subjective, what is “good” to the seller may not be “good enough” for the buyer. This is because there are no set product standards when it comes to secondhand goods. With brand-new goods, manufacturers have to comply with standards set by the Bureau of Product Standards.

Most likely, sellers of secondhand items also do not offer warranty, which is a written guarantee from the seller that the product is of good quality and that the seller is responsible should the item be found defective during the warranty period. The warranty is for the protection of the buyer. All ethical manufacturers offer warranty to buyers of their products.

If your laptop came with a warranty, the seller should replace the unit or repair the unit at no cost on your part as long as it is brought to the seller within the warranty period. However, since the laptop was bought at a secondhand market online, you might not be able to avail of a similar benefit. It is worth a try to raise the issue with the seller, but there is no guarantee that you can have the laptop repaired or replaced. Buying a product without warranty is on an “as is where is” basis, wherein it is presumed that you have inspected a product before buying,

and after ascertaining its quality, pushes through with buying the item, warts and all.

Your case is a clear example of why buying cheap is sometimes not a bargain. You may have to bear the cost of repairing the laptop and upgrading it, which may bring the cost up to almost the same price as a brand new unit.

Here are our tips on how to avoid similar incidents, and how to be a wise buyer:

1. Know your rights as a consumer. The Consumer Act of the Philippines protects buyers against deceptive sales acts which includes selling a product that is of inferior quality than what is advertised.

2. Inspect a product before buying, and if possible, test all features to check if they work well.

3. Ask the seller relevant questions such as:

- How does the product work?
- What happens if it does not work? Do you accept returns?
- Does it have warranty?
- What is the total price inclusive of tax, shipping, handling fee?
- Where can I bring the product for repair?
- Are parts easily available in the local market should replacement parts be needed?

4. Deal with reputable sellers. For brick and mortar stores, it is easy to see and check if they are reputable. For online sellers, check out the feedback section in their websites or in the forums for buyers and sellers. You may also turn to the call center of the Department of Trade and Industry (02) 751-3330 during office hours to check on a seller.

5. Make sure there is after-sales service. Sellers should ensure that products that need repair but are out of warranty can be serviced. 6. File a complaint if needed. If, after all these, you feel the need to file a complaint, do so by calling the DTI call center or fill out the complaint form found at their website on <http://www.dti.gov.ph>.

Caveat emptor—let the buyer beware. Let's be vigilant in all aspects before buying anything.

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Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Libel case vs Hayden Kho's mom junked

By Julie M. Aurelio
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Quezon City Prosecutor's Office has dismissed the libel complaint filed by actress Katrina Halili against the mother of Dr. Hayden Kho Jr. for lack of probable cause.

In a four-page resolution dated Aug. 6, which was released only on Thurs-

day, Assistant City Prosecutor Rafael Villordon said there was no proof of malice in the statements made in several television interviews by Kho's mother, Irene, against Halili in May.

Irene had claimed that Halili was a drug user who supplied her son with illegal drugs.

She made the statements after videos of her son having sex with several women, including Halili, were leaked

on the Internet.

The controversy led the actress to file charges against Kho whom she accused of taping a private act between them without her knowledge.

"She [Irene] earnestly believed her allegations to be true, and there [was] no clear showing that there was any malicious intention to cause damage to Halili's reputation," the prosecutor said.

He added that Irene was able to prove

that her statements were without malice—one of the key elements of libel.

"They arose from the natural obligation of a mother to defend her son. It doesn't appear that she made those remarks recklessly, or in utter disregard of whether they were true or false," Villordon said.

In her defense, Irene said her statements were based on what her son had told her while he was re-

covering in the hospital after a suicide attempt in 2008.

She added that she was just a mother defending her son from the vicious verbal attacks made against him after video clips of his sexual trysts with three different women, including Halili hit the YouTube, and that her statements were supported by her son's testimonies before the Senate and other government agencies.

Amalia Fuentes' son posts bail for libel rap

By Julie M. Aurelio
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The son of actress Amalia Fuentes has posted bail in connection with a libel case filed against him in a Cebu court.

Gerard Stevens, 26, posted bail of P10,000 before Judge Ofelia Arellano-Marquez of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 216 on Wednesday afternoon.

Marquez, the Quezon City RTC executive judge, granted the posting of bail for Stevens' temporary liberty.

Stevens is the son of Fuentes, a famous actress (Amalia Muhlach Stevens in real life) whose career in film peaked from the 1950s to the '70s.

His posting of bail came after police served a warrant for his arrest at his residence in New Manila, Quezon City, in relation to a libel case Stevens is facing in Cebu.

The Cebu Regional Trial Court Branch 23 issued an arrest warrant for Stevens based on a case filed by the supposed partner of Stevens' father Joey Stevens.

The complainant, Angelica Sierra, alleged that Stevens maligned her in his blog, calling her hurtful names that besmirched her reputation.

Stevens, his mother, and two others are also facing a robbery case before the Quezon City RTC for their alleged breaking into his father's office and getting back his mother's belongings.

Their arraignment for the case, robbery with force upon things, is set for October 19 before the sala of Judge Edgar Santos of RTC Branch 222.

The charges stemmed from a 2007 complaint filed by Rafael Anton and Editha Lopez-Bernardo of the First Mindanao Agriculture Corp, which holds office along P. Tuason Blvd. in Cubao.

Anton, a majority stockholder and Bernardo, the corporate secretary, alleged that Fuentes et al picked the lock of the FMA office in November 2007 and carted away items purportedly belonging to Anton.

The arraignment has been postponed several times pending the resolution of the petition for review Fuentes filed before the Department of Justice seeking the dismissal of the complaint.

Erich wants to impress Dina B

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Erich Gonzales, star of the current TV remake of "Katorse," is dead set on impressing Dina Bonnevie, who played the lead in the original 1984 movie.

"I'm giving my all here," Erich told the Inquirer during the soap's launch recently at the ABS-CBN offices in Quezon City. "I wanted to talk with Ms D before working on the show, but the closest I got was through her son Oyo, who teased me endlessly."

Erich said she watched Dina's performance in the Joey Gosengfiao film several times. "It helped me prepare for the character," she said.

The 18-year-old explained: "Direk Malu (Sevilla) wanted to see the innocence of a 14-year-old girl through my eyes and the way I talk. She taught me how to cry in character—'Di lang may luha, dapat may sound din.'"

"Katorse" is the story of Nene (Erich), who gets pregnant by childhood



Erich Gonzales is the star of the current TV remake of "Katorse."

SmartLipo to get rid of the unwanted post-natal fat. After her next pregnancy, she lost the excess weight with the help of Belo Diet Injections.

BMG has also opened a new branch at SM Mega Atrium (5th floor). I have been Belofied! Their super effective carboxy treatment and tenor have turned my jelly belly into a shapely tummy!

Initially Manny Pacquiao was against Jinkee's weight loss treatments but when he saw her losing 14 lbs. in 21 days, he liked her new body. "Now it's his turn to get jealous," Jinkee says in jest.

New mom

Daphne Oseña-Paez doesn't look like a mother of three kids at all. The fab "Urban Zone" host gave birth to Stella Margarita, her third adorable daughter (with husband Patrick Paez), three weeks ago. Her two other children are Sophia Rose, 6 and Lily Paloma, 3.

"All my kids have flower names. Margarita means daisy in Spanish," Daph says. "She was born three weeks early but considered full term. She came out exactly one week before I had a public appearance for the launch of my Olay TVC. I had the easiest labor. It helped that I was active even during my pregnancy. I conceived Stella the same time I did my other baby, my line of luxury bed linens available in SM Homeworld & Our Home."

Echo is 'best dad' to child Santino

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Jericho Rosales' child, Santino, with my good friend Kai Palomares, is now 8 years old. How does Kat feel about Echo teaming up with his ex, Kristine Hermosa, again in "Dahil May Isang Ikaw?"

"I think their love team is the best," she says. "Saint and I support his shows whenever our schedule permits. But Echo and I don't allow our son to watch his love scenes and chismis shows."

Does she prefer Echo's love team with Tintin or with Heart Evangelista? "I like all his leading ladies," she says. "Saint and I are happy with all the blessings coming his way. He tells us he lets God direct his career that's why everything is falling into place."

Now that Echo is busy again, does he still find time for Santino? "Echo has always been a good dad," she replies. "In fact, through the years, he has become the best dad. We raise Saint toward Christ. We would rather not let him join show biz. He's had print ads for Ralph Lauren kids. But if he wants to become an actor after college, it's up to him."

Players off court

At the birthday bash of Tito Orly Ilacad's gorgeous daughter, Cat Ilacad (the brains



Jericho Rosales is teaming up again with his ex, Kristine Hermosa, in "Dahil May Isang Ikaw."

behind the celebs' fave nail salon, Posh Nails), Valerie Concepcion gave Cristine Reyes some sisterly advice about cager Wesley Gonzales who's asking Cristine out. "Don't date him, Girl," Valerie warns. "He's taken."

Valerie should know since she's seen

ing another cager, Dondon Hontiveros. Having a former PBA star for an ex-husband, I must say most of them are players even off court.

Case closed

GMA 7's "Survivor Philippines" program manager Neil Gumban sent me the following e-mail in reaction to my item about Rachel Alejandro's sentiments on the use of the monicker "Sexy Chef" (the name of Rachel and her sister Barni's food business) by one of its castaways.

"The monicker 'sexy chef' used by Survivor Philippines cast member Mika Batchelor is at best a self-description tag. Please note that other cast members used similar phrases to describe what they are and what they did before joining 'Survivor Philippines,' i.e. 'Beauty Queen' Justine Ferrer, 'Lady Pilot' Maya Segovia, etc. We are happy to note that Ms Rachel Alejandro shares the same observation as our Legal Department that there is no monopoly in the use of the said 'tags.' Thus, as far as the 'Survivor-Philippines' franchise is concerned, we are treating this matter as closed."

Winning figure

Belo Medical Group's newest endorser is Pacman's Jinkee Pacquiao. After giving birth to her third child, she underwent

Motherhood is one thing Daphne always wanted in life. "Being a mom is my priority. By working from my home, I manage to be a hands-on mom."

Sister act

A network insider told me that Claudine Barretto was on the verge of moving to GMA 7 when some problems cropped up in the planning stage of her teleserye with elder sister Gretchen. But the kinks have been ironed out, so Claud is staying put in the Kapamilya network.

Greta is set to take acting workshops in preparation for the TV series. Who will outshine whom? Or will Greta and Claud have equal share of the spotlight? Sister act, sister pact!

Guess list

■ A celebrity couple parted ways because the guy caught his girl in the act. He has figured in many brawls because of his temper. You can just imagine how he raised hell when he saw his GF cavorting with another guy. Sad when things turn ugly between a beautiful couple like them.

■ A sexy actress lost one of her major endorsements because of a controversy she got embroiled in recently. Even if she was just dragged into the mess, she was not spared from suffering the consequences. Scandal sells but not in the advertising world. Wholesome (image) makes more sum total in endorsement deals.

Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

99.9-percent shameful

So convicted plunderer Joseph Estrada is 99.9-percent sure of running for president again in 2010. He offers many rationalizations for his recklessly self-indulgent reentry into national politics, and not one makes logical sense—except, of course, to the man obsessed with vindication.

First, he offers the argument of unity. If he runs, he has said much too often, it will be because the opposition cannot unite behind a single candidate. We fail to follow Estrada's logic. Apparently, he thinks he is the only opposition candidate with a real shot at winning in a crowded race. But, in truth, the opposite is more probable: an Estrada candidacy will make it likelier for an administration candidate like Vice President Noli de Castro to squeak through to victory.

Then Estrada offers the argument of vindication. If he runs, he has said, it will be to clear his name. Yet the landmark decision that found him guilty on two counts of plunder was well-argued and well-wrought. It was also backed, solidly, by both ample evidence and public opinion. For once, the government's long-frayed net had caught the proverbial big fish. President Arroyo's politically motivated pardon of Estrada, however, created a dismal contradiction: It tarnished the Sandiganbayan's historic legal achievement by letting Estrada go, and yet it left Estrada himself still unsatisfied.

Estrada offers, too, the argument of unserved time. If he wins again, he has said more than once, he will serve only three and a half years in office. The argument is based on the fact that he had served two and a half years in office before People Power forced him to abandon the Palace.

Again, his logic baffles us. A new president is bound to a six-year contract, on good behavior. If, by some legalistic sleight of hand, Estrada is re-elected to Malacañang, he is bound to serve the full term. Estrada is increasingly desperate to taste presidential power again, but does he actually expect the people to believe he will give up the power he is seeking after only three and a half years? He strikes us to be more in the mold of President Arroyo, rather than the self-effacing late President Corazon Aquino.

Not least, Estrada offers the argument of the doable. In essence, he is saying: I can, therefore I will. Of all the acts of self-indulgence Estrada is famous for, a second run for the presidency will probably be seen in history's hindsight as the most self-indulgent.

We do not follow his logic. We do not think it is constitutional for Estrada to run for reelection. But even if it were legally permissible, it doesn't mean Estrada should run again. Cory Aquino declined to run a second time. Estrada should find the internal disposition, the serenity that comes from placing the country's best interests before one's own, to decline a second run.

Doing something just because you think you can, not because you should, is immature, irresponsible and (at least) 99.9-percent shameful.

© Philippine Daily Inquirer

'Teyktu'

Maraming nag-text sa akin matapos mabasa 'yung kolumn ko noong Lunes, "Ser, isa pa nga."

Bakit nga hindi? Bitin nga ang isa, parang beer. Agosto pa rin naman, at buwan pa rin ng Wika. Ano pa ang mas malapit sa kamalayang Pilipino kundi wikang Pilipino? Kahit na pang-text lang ang alam kong Pilipino.

Hindi mahirap hanapin ang paksa para dyan. Iisa ang tampok na elemento sa Agosto 21, isang elemento na tampok din ngayon sa pagkawala. Yan ang katapangan.

Matapang tayo noon, duwag tayo ngayon.

Katapangan ang buod ng mga katagang, "Hindi ka nag-iisa." Yan ang mga katagang umalingaw-gaw sa buong bayan matapos pagbabarilin si Ninoy Aquino sa airport noong Agosto 21, 1983. Sa buong panahon ng pagkaburol n'ya, at lalong-lalo na sa pagdala sa kanya sa huling hantungan, yan ang masdasaling binubulong, o galit na sinisigaw, ng taong-bayan: "Hindi ka nag-iisa."

Ano nga ba ang ibig sabihin ng "Hindi ka nag-iisa?"

Simple lang. Hindi ka nag-iisa dahil, kagaya mo, handa rin kaming magsakripisyong para sa bayan. Kaga ya mo, handa rin kaming kumilos para sa bayan. Kaga ya mo, handa rin kaming mamatay para sa bayan.

Mga katagang sinabi, o pinahiwatig, natin noon hindilang kay Ninoy kundi sa lahat ng nagbuwis ng buhay sa panahon ng kadaliman—marami sa kanila ay nasa Wall of Remembrance ng Bantayog ng mga Bayani ngayon. 'Yan din ang isa pang kahulugan ng "Hindi ka nag-iisa." Hindi lang si Ninoy ang nagbuwis ng buhay para sa bayan noon panahong 'yon, marami pa.

Sino na lang ang nagsasabi ng "Hindi ka nag-iisa" ngayon? O sino na lang ang nagsasabi n'yan ngayon na me gano'ng kahulugan? Dahil pag naririnig ko ang "Hindi ka nag-iisa" ngayon, ang dating sa 'kin ay parang death wish na lang ng Pinoy. Tipong: "O, sige, isali n'yo na rin ako sa kabaong. Tama na, sobra na, ayoko na. Suko na ini."

Paano tayo umabot sa gano'n? Paano tayo nawalan ng katapangan? O diretsuhin na natin, paano tayo naduwag?

Gusto ko sanang sabihing nabakla na siguro tayo, pero di lang sa magagalit sa akin ang mga kaibigan

kong bakla kundi marami akong kilalang bakla na matapang. Nangunguna na d'yan si Lino Brocka na sa tindi ng galit sa mga kahibangan noon ni Manoling Morato ay sinigawan ng "Bakla!" Iilan lang ang kakilala kong makatapat kay Brocka sa katapangan.

Ang nakikita na lang nating katapangan ngayon, at talaga namang laganap na, ay katapangan ng apog. Ang katapangangang yon ay wala ring pinipiling kampon, babae, lalaki o bakla. Equal opportunity, ika nga. Tapang ng apog ang kumikiltil sa bayan, tapang ng apog ang pumapatay sa bayan. Tingnan mo ang mga nasa poder ngayon at tanong mo sa sarili kung may makikita ka ring katapat nila sa ganyang katapangan.

Pero yo'ng totoong katapangan, nasaan na?

Angal tayo ng angal, wala naman tayong ginagawa para tigilan ang kawalanghiyaan. Angal tayo ng angal, hindi naman tayo kumikilos para paayusin ang buhay.

Sino'ng inaasahan nating gagawa niyan? Ang Diyos, sa pamagitan ng pagbigay ng lupus o sakit ng tiyan sa pagkabondat sa mga taong bwiseit sa buhay natin? Ang Amerika, na nagpapanggap na tagapagtanggol ng demokrasya sa buong mundo pero ayos lang na masikil ang kalayaan sa bansa ni Una? O "sila na lang," ang ating mga kapitbahay na lang, ang ating mga tagapagtanggol na lang, dahil tayo ay me pamilya, dahil tayo ay kailangang maghanap-buhay, dahil tayo ay sobrang busy.

Sino ba ang walang pamilya? Kaya ka nga kumikilos ay para masilayan ng mga anak mo ang isang lipunang may liwanag at katarungan. Sino ba ang di kailangang maghanap-buhay? Kaya ka nga naghahanap ng buhay para di mo matagpuan ang patay—na pwedeng maging literal balang araw sa bangkay ng anak mo na lulutang-lutang sa ilog dahil ginawa n'ya ang di mo ginawa, ang di mo nagawa, ang di mo magawa. Dahil takot ka. Dahil busy ka.

Nakanino ba ang kapangyarihang hintuin ang katiwalian? Nakanino ba ang kapangyarihang hintuin ang



There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

pagbansot sa bayan? Di ba nasa atin? Di ba pag nagagalit tayo ay napipigilan nating bumili ng mahaaling jet ang mumurahing tao? Di pa kumikilos tayo ay napipigilan natin isulong ang Cha-cha ng mga taong di naman marunong sumayaw? Di ba pag pinapakita natin ang ating kapangyarihan ay napapatalsik natin ang mga taong kapit-tuko sa kapangyarihan?

Me mga nagsasabi na hindi naman tayo nawalan ng tapang, nawalan lang tayo ng paki. Gano'n din 'yon. Kaduwagan din yon. O higit pa ro'n. Dahil ngayon hindi ka lang takot matatay, takot ka pang mabuhay.

Bukas, maraming mga pagtitipon-tipon sa pag-unita ng makasaysayang Agosto 21. Isa na dyan ay ang prayer rally sa Ninoy statue sa Ayala na ganapin sa ika-3:00 ng hapon hanggang gabi. Na ang hiling ng mga organizers ay kung maaari ay magsuot ng dilaw ang mga tao para ipakita ang pakikiray, pagpupugay, at pakikiisa kay Cory. Hanep din tayong Pinoy ano: Dilaw ang kulay ng kaduwagan sa ibang bansa, dilaw ang kulay ng katapangan sa ating bansa.

Pwede kang sumama rito at sumigaw ng "Tama na, sobra na, palitan na" para sa kinabukasan ng mga anak mo. Pwede kang sumama rito para magsabi kay Inang Bayan, "Hindi ka nag-iisa," handa rin kaming mamatay nang dahil sa 'yo, at higit na handang mabuhay nang para sa yo. Pwede kang sumama rito para ipakita na hindi pa nawawala ang katapangan sa bayan ko, binihag ka, ang dugo ng mga bayani ay nananayatay sa mga ugat mo.

O pwede kang huwag sumama rito dahil ang bukang-bibig mo ngayon ay hindi na "Hindi ka nag-iisa" kundi "Bahala ka sa buhay mo." Pwede kang huwag sumama rito dahil marami ka pang mahalang gagawin, kagaya nang manuod ng "G.I. Joe." Pwede kang huwag sumama rito dahil mas okay sa yo ang maging patay kahit buhay pa kesa maging buhay kahit patay na. Pero kung gano'n:

Mag-isa ka.

Luneta: The killing field?

The order from Malacañang, as communicated by Press Secretary Cerge Remonde, is for a monument for the dear departed Corazon Aquino to be erected in Rizal Park within six months. Most people who heard about this plan asked, "But isn't Rizal Park for Jose Rizal?"

Unfazed, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim jumped the gun on everyone by naming a hospital and school in honor of Ms Aquino. He also expressed his wish that the City Council would pass an ordinance renaming Lambingan Bridge in honor of Ms Aquino. Last Aug. 21, in the shadow of the emaciated Ninoy Aquino monument and before assembled members of the Aquino family, Lim announced that a monument to Ms Aquino would join that of her husband on the corner of Roxas Boulevard and P. Burgos Street by the time her birthday comes on Jan. 24, 2010. The site is bounded by the Manila Hotel, the silent watchtowers of Intramuros on Bastion de San Diego, and the actual site where Rizal was executed, so it can be considered part of Rizal Park although it remains outside the area declared as a National Historical Landmark dedicated to Rizal.

Most people know that "kilometer zero" or the base from which all distances throughout the archipelago are reckoned and indicated in kilometer posts on our national roads is a spot near the Rizal monument. What people tend to overlook is that Rizal is buried under the monument that does not stand on the exact spot where he fell dead.

Because all the tourists and Filipinos taking souvenir snapshots are focused on the monument, they overlook other important landmarks in Rizal Park like the memorial to Rizal's friend Ferdinand Blumentritt from Litomerice in the present Czech Republic. There is also a neglected fountain here that was given to the Philippines by Germany because it was one of the public water dispensers from which Rizal drank when he was a student in Heidelberg. But the landmark that is most often overlooked is a squat white obelisk be-

hind the Rizal monument marking the spot where Jose Burgos, Mariano Gomez, and Jacinto Zamora were executed in 1872.

Today Rizal Park is a place for a Sunday stroll, a place to relax and enjoy one of the few endangered open public spaces in Manila. Because it is a park, people forget its origins as "Bagumbayan," the "new" settlement outside the walls of Intramuros. It was here that many Filipino criminals were executed. Rizal Park, the Luneta, or Bagumbayan has been described as a "killing field," its ground fertilized by the blood of petty criminals and those who have been re-invented by history, like Gomburza, Rizal, and many Katipuneros who may have been criminals or insurgents to the Spanish government but were considered martyrs, patriots and heroes by Filipinos.

Browsing over the wonderful photographs in a tourist guidebook "The Picturesque Philippines" (Springfield, Ohio: 1900), I was surprised to find pictures of the garrote and text that explains how this terrible instrument worked. Contrary to popular belief the victim was not killed slowly by strangulation; rather the garrote killed swiftly by breaking the neck. In principle it is humane and painless. But since nobody has survived to tell us this is true, then we take the executioner's word for it. The text reads:

"The execution of criminals under Spanish law was by garroting in public. Fiesta-loving Manila made the most of such occasions, thousands upon thousands turning out to see a poor wretch die. The fatal procession would move from the jail around sunrise—cavalry, priests on foot or in carriages, a functionary wearing an apron and carrying the sacred banner of the Church embroidered in black and gold, the prison officials, and in an open carromata within a marching



Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

square of soldierly the condemned man, with a priest seated on each side exhorting or comforting him; then the executioner, walking by himself, and finally some more infantry with fixed bayonets.

"A crowd of people had been assembling for some time, and the guards surrounding the raised platform on which the execution was to take place had as much as they could do to keep it back. People were there on foot and in carriages, all classes of both sexes, young and old, arrayed in their Sunday best.

"The garrote may be briefly described as a collar of brass or iron, its front piece opening on a hinge, and part of its back piece capable of being thrust forward under the impulse of a big screw that works through the upright post to which the victim, with his neck inside the collar, has been fastened. The screw in question is operated on the same principle as in an ordinary letter-press. When all was ready the executioner would give the screw-handle a complete turn, and the moving back piece would be pushed forward against the victim's spine, at the base of the neck, with such force as to snap the spinal cord and produce instantaneous death. The more finished instruments had a stout pin in the back piece to pierce the spine, and cause death without crushing the corpse so much. The Manila executioners were always pardoned criminals, holding their lives on condition of breaking the necks of others, and they were better paid than forty-nine teachers out of every fifty that were carried by the Department of Education."

Manila must have been so boring that people looked forward to Sunday executions as part of the week's entertainment.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

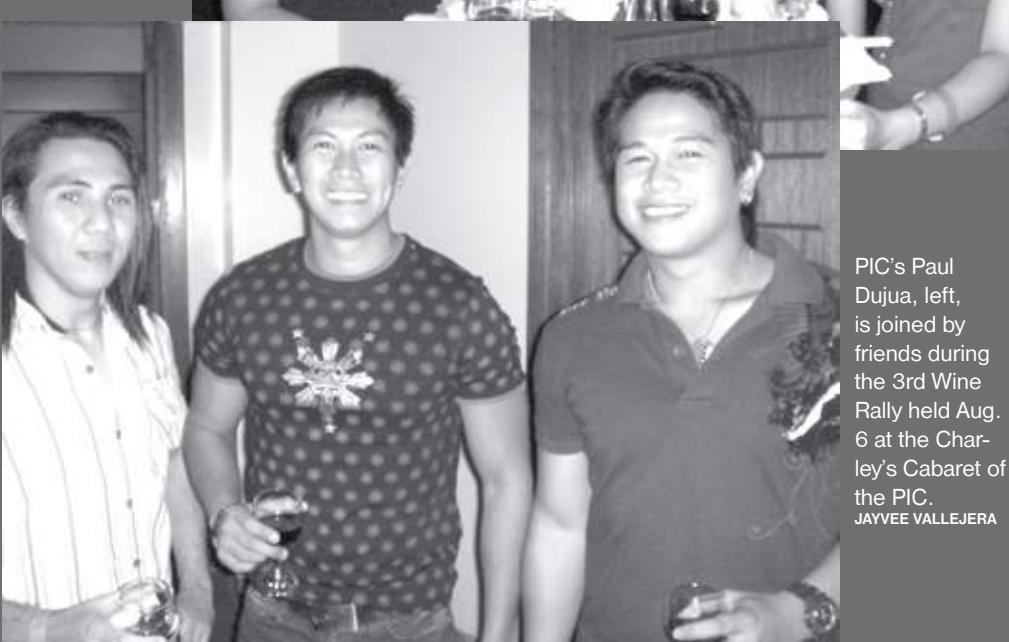
Samu't Sari

WINE RALLY

Waitstaff from both Pacific Islands Club and Saipan World Resort pose for a souvenir picture during the 3rd Wine Rally held Aug. 6 at the Charley's Cabaret of the PIC. **JAYVEE VALLEJERA**



Guests at the 3rd Wine Rally help themselves to free bottom-less wine and the large array of food. The event was held Aug. 6 at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club. **JAYVEE VALLEJERA**



PIC bartenders keep the flow of wine and drinks going during the 3rd Wine Rally held Aug. 6 at the Charley's Cabaret of the PIC. **JAYVEE VALLEJERA**



Ryan and Darwin, both waitstaff of Pacific Islands Club, have their picture taken during the 3rd Wine Rally held Aug. 6 at the Charley's Cabaret of the PIC. **JAYVEE VALLEJERA**

CHRISTENING

Father Celso poses with couple Larry and Maricar Pangilinan after the christening of their precious daughter Nicole Angela Simeon Pangilinan on Aug. 22, 2009.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Couple Larry and Maricar Pangilinan, joined by godparents Aileen Ordas, Rheena Trinidad, Jho Doreza, Maridel Vallarta, Mylene Canoza, Nat Angeles, Ramon Diaz, Ronnel Calma and Marlon Estigoy, pose for a souvenir picture after the christening of Nicole Angela on Aug. 22, 2009.

WORKERS' RALLY

Alien workers sign up on the attendance sheet during Aug. 9's rally at the Garapan Fishing Base. The rally was held to welcome the congressional delegates that visited the islands to check up on the possible impact of federalization on the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAYVEE VALLEJERA



Writers Clarissa David, left, and Jude Marfil-Schwalbach smile for the camera during their coverage of the alien workers' rally held in the afternoon of Aug. 9 at the Garapan Fishing Base.

JAYVEE VALLEJERA



Arlene, left, and Maida smile for the *Saipan Tribune* during the alien workers' rally held in the afternoon of Aug. 9 at the Garapan Fishing Base.

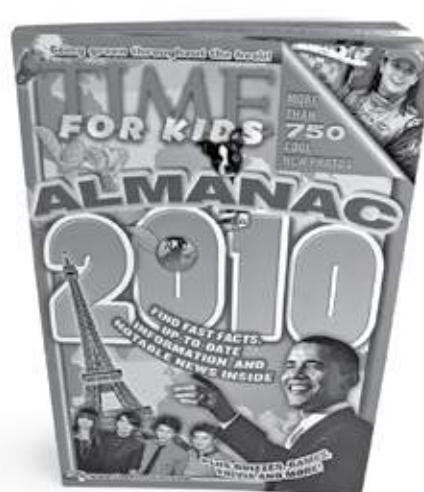
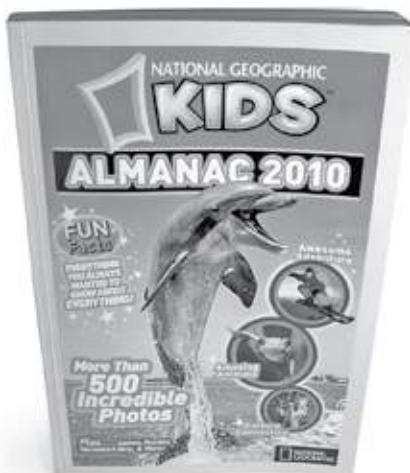
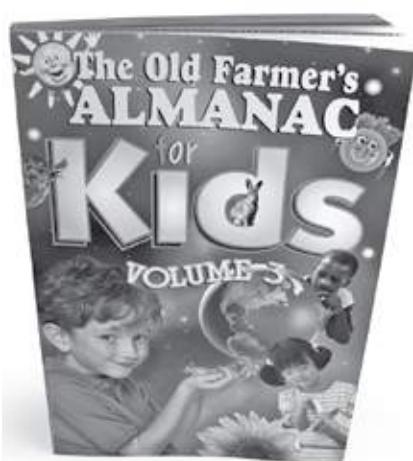
JAYVEE VALLEJERA



Rep. Tina Sablan joins a group of residents for a souvenir picture during the alien workers' rally held in the afternoon of Aug. 9 at the Garapan Fishing Base.

JAYVEE VALLEJERA

YoungStyle



Today the concept of the almanac is wide-ranging, including information on all sorts of topics. Here are three made for kids: from left, "The Old Farmer's Almanac for Kids, Volume 3," "National Geographic Kids Almanac 2010" and "Time for Kids Almanac 2010."

THE WASHINGTON POST

Need the facts? Get an almanac

By MARGARET WEBB PRESSLER
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Where can you find out that:

- Nolan Ryan once threw a baseball more than 100 miles per hour?
- 2 million people in America speak Chinese?

■ The average annual temperature at Plateau Station, Antarctica, is 70 degrees below zero?

An almanac, of course. It's the one book that you should definitely head back to school with.

Almanacs have come a long way since they were created in the 15th century, when they were basically used as calendars, with tables that helped people calculate the date and season. Gradually, more and more helpful information was included, such as astronomical data, weather advice and postal rates.

Today the concept of the almanac is more wide-ranging, including information on all sorts of topics. Kids' almanacs, especially, are helpful since

CLICK AND LEARN

Because no one book can have all the answers you might need, here are some good Web sites to know about as you go back to school:

- www.smithsonianeducation.org/students
- www.biography.com
- www.kids.gov
- www.rif.org/kids
- www.50states.com

they tend to have the kind of information that you might need for homework and long-term projects.

But even without schoolwork to do, these books are pretty fun to read. So take your pick and enjoy.

The Old Farmer's Almanac For Kids, Volume 3

This is the kids' version of the longest continually published almanac in the country (the first version came out in 1793). True to its history, it has plenty of information on sky matters, such as the moon, planets and stars, as well as cool weather

facts and an interesting calendar. But what sets this almanac apart are the in-depth features on different subjects. Rather than jumping in and out of tons of subjects, "The Old Farmer's Almanac for Kids" rewards you with longer features on fewer topics, such as the four-page spread on chocolate!

The lowdown: Not as glossy and modern as other almanacs, but easy to read and full of substantial, interesting information.

National Geographic Kids Almanac 2010

This is a welcome new entry among kids' almanacs this year, with great photography and fascinating information on creatures and cultures around the world. There is unbeatable animal information in this book and plenty of serious material on science, history and people that's useful for doing homework. But the main feel of this almanac is just plain fun, so it's hard to put down. It reads like National

Geographic Kids magazine, including games and activities that are just for entertainment.

The lowdown: Could be helpful for your homework, but once you pick it up, you might not *do* your homework!

Time for Kids Almanac 2010

In keeping with this almanac's relationship to Time, the newsmagazine, this book focuses on current events and is rich with information. The review of major events in the year is a helpful recap, and the hefty sections on countries, states and presidents are worthy of any school project. The many photos and plentiful kid-friendly, fun facts make it very readable but not too serious.

The lowdown: An intelligent, readable almanac chock-full of information you can use for school (and some that you definitely won't, such as that the first home video game console became available in 1972).

History written in the clouds

By RAYMOND M. LANE
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

COLLEGE PARK, Md.—"My great-grandpa helped Wilbur," said 9-year-old Dalton John Charles Grady, a fourth-grader visiting the College Park Aviation Museum with his grandparents Diane and Tim Grady of Greenbelt, Md.

"Wilbur" is, of course, flying pioneer Wilbur Wright. Dalton makes the proclamation while wearing goggles, a snazzy leather jacket and a silk scarf—just like Indiana Jones in "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and Snoopy in "Peanuts." The dress-up pilot clothes await young visitors at the world's first airport and pilot school.

It was here in 1909 that Wilbur Wright began training U.S. Army officers on how to fly. And Dalton's great-grandfather Jesse M. Ayers was a teen-age soldier assigned to help. His huge photo hangs in the classroom hallway.

"Whoa!" said Dalton, working the controls of an airplane that looks like it wants to crash.

Of course, it's just a pretend airplane (a flight simulator) sitting on the museum floor, with real airplanes nearby, including a copy of the 1909 plane the Wright brothers built especially for the new pilots here.

Children of all ages crawl around the plane today, welcomed to the air-



Young visitors at the College Park Aviation Museum in Maryland.

Facts about Wilbur and Orville Wright

By RAYMOND M. LANE
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

- Wilbur and Orville Wright always called each other by their private childhood nicknames: Ullam and Bubbo, respectively.
- There is no recording of the voices of either airmen, even though Orville lived to 1948.

port museum throughout the year for all kinds of programs, starting with guided tours, and lots of kid things to

- The first U.S. woman to fly took off from College Park Airport in Maryland as a passenger in 1909.
- The first U.S. airmail began at the airport in 1918.
- Pieces of the Wright brothers' original 1903 airplane were carried to the moon in 1969 by the crew of the Apollo 11.

do, including making paper airplanes, using a mini-post office to send "air-mail," watching old and new movies

about airplanes, and visiting a strange little workshop that lights up when you walk toward it.

It's a re-creation of the Wrights' bicycle shop, where they built the first airplane that flew on Dec. 17, 1903. A talking motorized mannequin of Wilbur explains how it happened, and then the lights go out and he "freezes" until the next visitor comes by.

It's a fabulous story that began when Wilbur was 11 years old and Orville was 6. Their dad gave them a paper toy, a kind of helicopter that ran off a rubber band. They broke it. Wilbur tried to fix it and then decided to make his own airplane.

The rest is history, of course. And it's all laid out for kids at the College Park Aviation Museum.

By FRED BOWEN
Special to
The Washington Post

Bowen is an author of sports novels for kids. His latest books are *Touchdown Trouble* and *Soccer Team Upset*.



The best ever' is a tough title to win

Did you see the lightning bolt? No, not the flash during a summer thunderstorm. I mean Usain "Lightning" Bolt, the Jamaican sprinter who broke his own world record in the 100-meter dash at the world championships last weekend.

Bolt shattered his old record by running the distance in an unbelievable 9.58 seconds. That means Bolt is the best ever—by far.

Bolt's record-setting race has me thinking about which other athletes competing today can claim they are the best ever.

It's easier to say someone is the best ever in individual sports, such as track and field and swimming, which have clear world records. Michael Phelps can say he's the best swimmer ever because he has the Olympic medals, world championships and world records to back it up.

But saying who is the best ever is trickier in sports where athletes compete on teams or against other players. Maybe an athlete wins because his teammates are great or because her opponent isn't so hot. Still, it's fun to talk about which athletes may be the best ever.

Some say Roger Federer is the best male tennis player ever. He has won a record 15 titles in the four major tournaments: Wimbledon and the French, Australian and U.S. opens. And Federer is one of a few male players who have won each of the major titles at least once.

Others claim tennis legend Rod Laver is the best ever. Laver won the Grand Slam (winning all four major tournaments in the same year) twice, in 1962 and 1969.

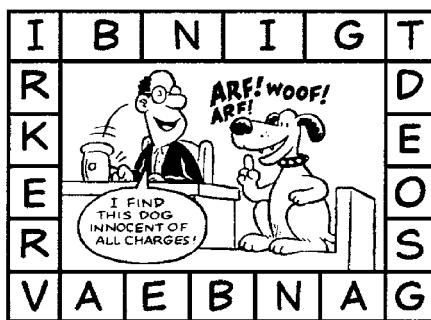
Tiger Woods may be the best golfer ever, even though he lost the PGA championship on the same day that Bolt set his record. No one has won as many PGA tournaments (70) and major tournaments (14) as Woods by age 33. But he still has a way to go to catch Jack Nicklaus' record of 18 major championships. So maybe Nicklaus is the best ever.

I hate to admit it because I am a Boston Red Sox fan, but I think Mariano Rivera of the New York Yankees is the best relief pitcher ever. Trevor Hoffman of the Milwaukee Brewers has more saves, but no one has saved as many big games as the hard-throwing Rivera.

Some of today's young athletes may become the best ever someday. Marta Vieira da Silva, 23, has a chance in women's soccer. I know Mia Hamm scored a record 158 goals in international play, but no one plays the beautiful game with the flair of the attacker from Brazil.

LeBron James, 24, and Candace Parker, 23, have a shot at being the best male and female basketball players ever. And hockey's 23-year-old Alexander Ovechkin, if he keeps scoring as he has for the Washington Capitals, may become the best left wing ever.

In sports, it's tough to be great. But it's really tough to be the best ever.



JUDGMENT FOR THE DEFENDANT! Hidden in the above frame is a famous old saying. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around it clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter

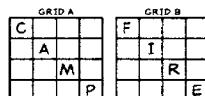
Barney dog never bites. At the bottom right corner: "A" Answer: THIS DOG INNOCENT OF ALL CHARGES

A SUPERHERO PROBLEM! Replace the letters in the spotlight with the digits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits. You have 3 minutes.

Our Answer: B=7, T=3, M=9, H=1, E=6, R=4, O=8, 723 + 925 = 1648

THIS PUZZLE SHOULD WARM YOU UP! Below are two puzzle grids for you to fill in. Hints are given for each word. The words in Grid B contain the same letters as the corresponding words in Grid A.

1. A coffee house.
2. Part of a fence.
3. Type of ice.
4. A type of year.

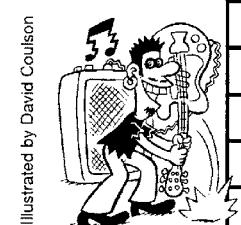


Answers: 1. Caf-e-ta-cre. 2. Rail-fence. 3. Ri-me-mire. 4. Leap-pa-leaf.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

SHAKE, RATTLE AND SOLVE!



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ROCK
RACK
RANK
BANK
BAND

In this type of puzzle you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed ROCK to BAND in four moves. See if you can change the following five words in four moves.

1. PUTT to SINK
2. BANK to ROLL
3. MILK to WEED
4. MAKE to WORK
5. CHAT to ROOM

6. CHAT, COAT, COOT, ROOT, ROOM.
7. MAKE, MARL, MELD, WELD, WEEF, WORK.
8. BANK, BARK, BELL, BOLT, BROLL.
9. PUTT, PUNK, SUNK, SINK.
10. MILK, MILD, MELD, WELD, WEEF, WORK.

Answers: 1. PUTT, PUNK, SUNK, SINK.

1. What the guilty try to save.
2. A stranger to the truth.
3. To sink in mud.
4. Weak lighting.

Answers: 1. What the guilty try to save.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

- It was British novelist Norman Douglas who made the following sage observation: "You can tell the ideals of a nation by its advertisements."
- If you're like the average American, you will eat approximately 22 pounds of tomatoes this year. And half of that amount will come in the form of ketchup and tomato sauce.
- Those who study such things say that a crack in breaking glass travels at more than 3,000 miles per hour.
- This may not come as a surprise, but studies of university students show that those who major in education drink the least liquor, while business administration majors drink the most.
- From the "Yes, There Is a Word for It" file: A crith is a unit of measure denoting the weight of a liter of hydrogen.
- The famed cable cars in San Francisco are the only U.S. national monument that is mobile.
- The year 1828 was a sad one for winemakers. For unknown reasons, 80 percent of the bottles of champagne bottled that year exploded.
- Add to the list of surprising items you can buy in vending machines in Japan: batteries, umbrellas, soccer balls, live bait, French fries and ties.
- Dead bodies can be a lucrative business: Medical schools and research institutions will pay more than \$200,000 for one.
- You might be surprised to learn that Jane Austen's novel "Pride and Prejudice" was originally titled "First Impressions."
- Sir Christopher Wren, the man who designed the famous London landmark St. Paul's Cathedral, was an astronomer, not an architect. His other achievements included developing a method for calculating eclipses and devising a way to measure the rings of Saturn.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "It is easier to lead men to combat, stirring up their passion, than to restrain them and direct them toward the patient labors of peace."—Andre Gide

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MAGIC MAZE ● BROTHERS

A A X U T R O L J G D A X V S
P N K I Y H F C A X V S B Q O
L J H E C T G A X V T R L P Y
N L J H R F I I D B Y X U R L
V T R P O E B N R M K I E G R
E D B Z X W L H R W U N S E E
T R Q O S M O T H E R S K N V
L J I L A G O I A A T R O F E
D C L R N A D M W T A A O Y X
W I X V O T E S S S P S R R P O
M N L K J S J I G F E C B F B

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Ames	Brooks	Marx	Smothers
Big	Everly	Mills	Statler
Blood	Fraternity	Parker	Warner
Blues	Jonas	Smith	

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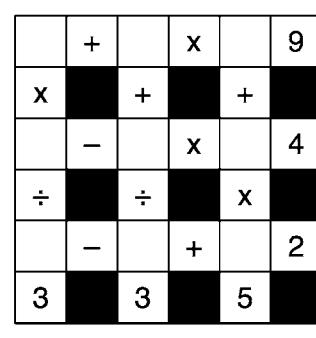
GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

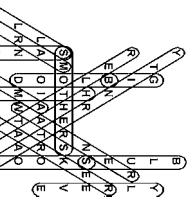


1 1 2 4 5 6 7 8 9

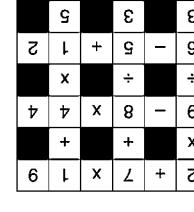
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MAGIC MAZE ANSWER

GO FIGURE ANSWER



BROTHERS



Lonely guinea pig needs new playmate

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I recently lost one of my guinea pigs, "Rosie." Ever since then, my other guinea pig, "Tulip," has seemed to take it very hard. She stays in her igloo and doesn't get up a lot. I'd like to get a new guinea pig so she won't be lonely. Is this a good idea? If I get a young guinea pig, would Tulip act motherly toward it or attack it?—Elise, via e-mail

DEAR ELISE: First, I'm so sorry to hear about Rosie. Guinea pigs tend to do best living in pairs, so I agree with you that Tulip is probably experiencing some depression right now at the loss of her companion.

Introducing a new guinea pig may be all right in Tulip's case. Female cavies accept new companions more readily than males, which generally have to be introduced when they're both young. I can't say whether introducing a very young female cavy companion will work better than introducing an adult cavy to Tulip—but adult cavies tend to be very individualistic. Go with your instincts, and observe both guinea pigs closely as they interact. Happy cavies generally make clucking or "wheek" sounds.



Paw's corner

by Sam Mazzotta

or purr. Teeth clacking, posturing or yawning can indicate aggressiveness.

In any case, make sure Tulip continues to get the nutrients she needs while she adjusts to the loss of Rosie. She must eat daily, so if she hasn't eaten in 24 hours, contact her veterinarian for guidance—she may need to be brought in so the vet can introduce nutrients quickly.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Watermelon sandwiches are late summer treat

When Joani Deuel's two grandkids, Hunter and Parker, come to visit in Dublin, Calif., they've learned to expect the unexpected from a grandmother who absolutely loves to have a surprise up her sleeve. The latest caper appeared at lunchtime when she said, "Come and get your watermelon sandwiches!"

"I didn't think it was really true," 12-year-old Hunter later told me. "Grandma invited us over for soup and sandwiches, but watermelon sandwiches? I was thinking grilled cheese."

I tasted Joani's talked-about creation on a recent visit to the West Coast, and just like her grandkids, I gave the innovative recipe an enthusiastic thumbs up. Served with zucchini soup and a simple bowl of fresh fruit topped with yogurt, watermelon sandwiches were memorable and definitely worth repeating.

Now, back on my own turf in Minnesota, our family has already made watermelon sandwiches for our neighborhood National Night Out potluck and family suppers, and I'll be serving them up next week for a mom's back-to-school get-together.

Try this simple, easy-to-prepare recipe with your kids, and get ready for those surprised looks from your guests when you serve a curious platter of watermelon sandwiches.

Here's what you'll need for 8 open-faced sandwiches:

- 1 ciabatta sandwich rolls sliced in half
- 1 handful of fresh mint stripped from the stems and chopped
- 1 8-ounce tube goat cheese
- 8 thin slices of chilled watermelon with seeds and rind removed
- Cracked pepper and salt to taste



combine with chopped mint.

2. Brush both sides of the sliced ciabatta rolls and grill or toast lightly.

3. Spread the cheese and mint mixture on the cut side of each ciabatta half. Add salt and pepper according to taste. Cut watermelon slices in triangles and stack 2 triangles on each half. For a fun twist, Joani suggests letting kids cut the watermelon into triangles with kitchen scissors instead of with a knife.

When assembled, you may wish use the scissors to cut the sandwich half in half again for smaller portions.

Grandparenting Tip: Sunday, Sept. 13, is designated as Grandparents' Day. Send a card or letter, or invite nearby grandparents over for a fun get-together. Stir up your own surprises with your kids for a memorable multigenerational gathering.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Distributed by King Features Synd.

Life & Style

Warrant: Jackson family told cops about drugs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police who searched Michael Jackson's home the day after he died were acting on information from family members who said they'd found a bag of heroin in his bedroom, but a person with knowledge of subsequent test results on the substance said it turned out not to be the drug. The search did, however, turn up a number of other drugs including marijuana, the generic form of Valium and other sedatives. A detective also indicated Jackson's body showed signs of injections.

The disclosure came in an affidavit supporting a search warrant that was executed June 26, three days earlier than any previously reported search of Jackson's rented mansion in Bel-Air.

Two warrants came to light Thursday after several media

outlets including The Associated Press asked to unseal four search warrants Los Angeles police detectives served in the early days of the Jackson death probe. The judge ordered two of the documents to remain sealed.

The unsealed warrants provide a glimpse into how police were directing their investigation immediately after Jackson's death. The warrant served at his rented Bel-Air mansion the day after he died lists "PC 187," the California penal code for murder, in the box labeled "probable crime."

That warrant states family members told a coroner's official "they had located a quantity of tar heroin in a bag in the decedent's bedroom," though the person with knowledge of tests on the substance said heroin was quickly ruled out. The person was not



Michael Jackson arrives at the Santa Barbara County Courthouse in Santa Maria, Calif.

authorized to speak to the media and asked for anonymity.

Detectives also secured a search warrant for the car of Dr.

Conrad Murray, the personal physician with Jackson when he died. The affidavit states detectives spoke to Murray in the hospital after the singer's death but he only gave a short summary of what had happened then left the hospital over detectives' objections.

In the intervening two months, investigators have pieced together a much fuller picture of how Jackson died and Murray has emerged as the central figure in a manslaughter probe. Investigators believe he was negligent in administering the powerful anesthetic propofol and other sedatives to Jackson and that those drugs killed the singer.

Murray's attorney Edward Chernoff has said Murray never administered anything that "should have" killed Jackson. The

coroner has not officially released autopsy results but a law enforcement official who requested anonymity because the investigation is ongoing told the AP the death has been ruled a homicide.

The search of Murray's car turned up some documents, but no additional drugs.

Also Thursday, an attorney for Jackson's longtime dermatologist does not plan to petition for a role in the upbringing of the singer's three children. Mark Vincent Kaplan said Dr. Arnold Klein is satisfied that a judge appointed an attorney to oversee their interests.

Kaplan surprised many by saying Klein wanted a role in the children's lives during a court hearing earlier this month. Jackson's mother, Katherine Jackson, was granted permanent

guardianship of the children at the hearing, and a judge ruled that Klein didn't have legal standing to intervene, but told the doctor he could file a motion later if he still had concerns.

Kaplan said Klein got involved because he was concerned about the children having a normal upbringing not related to show business. Jackson told Klein repeatedly that he wanted his children to have a formal education and not be subjected to the rigors of traveling and performing, Kaplan said.

Klein's involvement in the case raised questions about the whether the doctor could be the father of Jackson's two oldest children, a rumor fueled by tabloid reports and Klein's own cryptic answers when questioned on the matter.

Madonna booed in Bucharest for defending Gypsies

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)—At first, fans politely applauded the Roma performers sharing a stage with Madonna. Then the pop star condemned widespread discrimination against Roma, or Gypsies—and the cheers gave way to jeers.

The sharp mood change that swept the crowd of 60,000, who had packed a park for Wednesday night's concert, underscores how prejudice against Gypsies remains deeply entrenched across Eastern Europe.

Despite long-standing efforts to stamp out rampant bias, human rights advocates say Roma probably suffer more humiliation and endure more discrimination than any other people group on the continent.

Sometimes, it can be deadly: In neighboring Hungary, six Roma have been killed and several wounded in a recent series of apparently racially motivated attacks targeting small countryside villages predominantly settled by Gypsies.

"There is generally widespread resentment against Gypsies in Eastern Europe. They have historically been the un-



U.S. singer Madonna, center, performs during her concert in Bucharest, Romania, Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2009.

derdog," Radu Motoc, an official with the Soros Foundation Romania, said Thursday.

Roma, or Gypsies, are a nomadic ethnic group believed to have their roots in the Indian subcontinent. They live mostly in southern and eastern Europe, but hundreds of thousands have migrated west over the past few decades in search of jobs and better living conditions.

Romania has the largest number of Roma in the region. Some say the population could

be as high as 2 million, although official data put it at 500,000.

Until the 19th century, Romanian Gypsies were slaves, and they've gotten a mixed response ever since: While discrimination is widespread, many East Europeans are enthusiastic about Gypsy music and dance, which they embrace as part of the region's cultural heritage.

That explains why the Roma musicians and a dancer who had briefly joined Madonna onstage got enthusiastic applause. And it

also may explain why some in the crowd turned on Madonna when she paused during the two-hour show—a stop on her worldwide "Sticky and Sweet" tour—to touch on their plight.

"It has been brought to my attention ... that there is a lot of discrimination against Romanies and Gypsies in general in Eastern Europe," she said. "It made me feel very sad."

Thousands booed and jeered her.

A few cheered when she added: "We don't believe in discrimination ... we believe in freedom and equal rights for everyone." But she got more boos when she mentioned discrimination against homosexuals and others.

"I jeered her because it seemed false what she was telling us. What business does she have telling us these things?" said Ionut Dinu, 23.

Madonna did not react and carried on with her concert, held near the hulking palace of the late communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. Her publicist, Liz Rosenberg, said Madonna and other had told her there were cheers as well as jeers.

9/11 aims to become single largest day of service

lowed the terrorist attacks," he told a news conference near the site of the World Trade Center.

Paine joined other members of the 9/11 community to unveil a national campaign to build support for the privately funded effort. They urged volunteers to use a Web site launched Thursday that shares service projects and opportunities throughout the country.

Volunteers may choose any kind of activity, from working in a Harlem community garden and mentoring school children to performing music.



Gavin DeGraw attends the 40th annual Songwriters Hall of Fame ceremony in New York.

Organizers said they hope the 10th anniversary of the attacks in 2011 will mark the single largest day of service in U.S. history.

This year's volunteers include prominent musicians staging a tribute concert on Sept. 11. Gavin DeGraw, The Roots and others will perform at Manhattan's Beacon Theatre, with free tickets going to relatives of victims, recovery workers, volunteers and those who served tours in the military after the attacks. The rest of the tickets are being distributed by lottery.

A&E Television to acquire Lifetime

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A&E Television Networks said Thursday it is acquiring Lifetime Entertainment Services, bringing the home of "Project Runway" into a stable of profitable channels that includes A&E and the History channel.

Terms of the deal, which is expected to be completed by the end of the year, were not disclosed.

A&E Television Networks is a joint venture between The Walt Disney Co., Hearst Corp. and General Electric Co.'s NBC Universal. Lifetime is already owned 50-50 by Disney and Hearst.

Under the terms of the deal, NBC Universal may elect or

be required to exit the venture within 15 years, which would make Disney and Hearst 50-50 partners in the larger group.

The acquisition should result in cost savings by merging advertising sales forces and corporate overhead, and should be a positive for Disney shareholders, said David Joyce, an analyst with Miller Tabak & Co.

"There's incremental streamlining of the operations, which could result in better margins and more of a stake in those cable networks over time," he said. "It doesn't move the needle for Disney in the grand scheme of things but it would skew positive."

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Sometimes, it can be deadly: In neighboring Hungary, six Roma have been killed and several wounded in a recent series of apparently racially motivated attacks targeting small countryside villages predominantly settled by Gypsies.

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Romania has the largest number of Roma in the region. Some say the population could

Funeral Announcement

Lorenzo Aldan Ayuyu

was called to his eternal rest on August 21, 2009.

In his new life, he now joins his: Father-Jose Cruz Ayuyu Mother-Margarita Aguon Aldan Reared by-Pedro Santos Blas Brothers-William, William, Ramon, Alejandro, Jose

He is survived by his Brothers & Sisters:

Felix & Rosalinda Ayuyu, Antonia A. Ayuyu, Virginia & Fred Imperial, Edward & Janelyn Ayuyu, Maria & Jian Min Han, Sophia A. & Assad Urruzaman, Leonora A. Blas & Willie Castro

He is additionally survived by numerous nephews & nieces, grand nephews / nieces

Daily Mass is being offered at Santa Soledad Church at 6:00pm followed by Rosary at 7:00pm. On Tuesday, September 01, 2009 his remains will be escorted from CHC at 7:00am to Santa Soledad Church.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 8:30am followed by interment at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.
The Family

Police to detail findings in model slaying probe

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP)—A white Mercedes-Benz found in a parking lot in West Hollywood belonged to an ex-model whose brutal slaying prompted an international manhunt for a former reality TV contestant wanted in the murder, police said Wednesday.

Police received an anonymous telephone tip and found the car belonging to 28-year-old Jasmine Fiore in a parking lot next to a grocery store, Buena Park police Detective Eric Burciaga said.

Police have not found a murder scene and say Fiore could have been killed in the car before her nude body was found stuffed in suitcase in a Southern California trash bin on Aug. 15.

Investigators did not attempt to open the car and were not able to see inside because of its tinted windows. A tow truck transported it from the scene.

The examination of the car “could take quite awhile because they’re going to be very methodical going through it,” said Tom Hession, chief inspector for the regional fugitive task force of the U.S. Marshals Service.

A witness told police the car had been

parked in the lot since the day of the killing. A note slipped under the windshield wiper read, “This is a private parking lot. Unattended vehicles may be towed at owner’s expense.”

Fiore’s fingers and teeth had been removed when her body was found, presumably to hamper efforts to identify her. Police learned her identity by tracing the serial number on her breast implants.

Suspect Ryan Jenkins, 32, her ex-husband and a former contestant on the VH1 show “Megan Wants a Millionaire,” was found hanging from a clothes rack in a hotel room in Hope, British Columbia on Sunday after a frantic dash to the border. An autopsy concluded he committed suicide.

In Canada, authorities said a silver PT Cruiser matching the description of the vehicle seen dropping Jenkins at a motel was parked at his half-sister’s condominium in Vancouver.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police Cpl. Norm Massie declined to say whether Alena Jenkins is the woman who checked Jenkins into the Thunderbird Motel in Hope, British Columbia, three days before he was found dead.

A message left with a woman answering

Alena Jenkins’ phone was not immediately returned. The woman said Jenkins’ half-sister was away arranging funeral details.

Police have identified the woman who helped Jenkins check into the motel but have not released her name. She was not in custody and police were considering whether she would face charges.

Massie said police would need proof the woman knew Ryan was wanted before they could file charges.

“We’re not going to confirm or deny anyone involved in the investigation,” Massie said. “Our investigation is on two fronts, first we want to find the circumstances around the incident at the motel in Hope and, as importantly, we have yet to determine how Ryan entered Canada from the U.S. and if any one assisted him doing so.”

Jenkins left a real estate job in his native Calgary, Alberta, earlier this year to pursue a Hollywood career and found some success. He was among a group of wealthy young men on the reality show who tried to win over a materialistic blonde. An episode featuring Jenkins aired around the same time police sought him for Fiore’s murder.

Beyoncé to perform at the MTV Video Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Beyoncé (bee-AHN-say) is set to give a dreamy performance at the MTV Video Music Awards.

MTV announced Thursday that the superstar singer will sing her latest hit, “Sweet Dreams,” at the Sept. 13 event. Beyoncé is nominated for nine trophies, tying Lady Gaga (GAH-gah) for the most nominations.

Rapper Wale (WAH-lay) is also set to perform with the band UCB as the official “house band” at the VMAs.

Among the performers already announced are Jay-Z, Green Day, Taylor Swift, and Lady Gaga.

Beyoncé Knowles poses for pictures at a press conference where she announced her partnership with General Mills’ Hamburger Helper with the goal of helping the organization Feeding America deliver meals to local food banks in New York.



AP

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Jackson dermatologist won't file in guardianship

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A lawyer for Michael Jackson’s former dermatologist says he now has no plans to petition a court for a role in the lives of the singer’s three children. Mark Vincent Kaplan says Dr. Arnold Klein is satisfied now that an attorney has been appointed to oversee the children’s interests. Kaplan surprised many during a court hearing earlier this month by saying Klein wanted to be involved in the children’s lives. A judge ruled that Klein didn’t have legal standing to intervene, but told the doctor he could file a motion later if he still had concerns. Kaplan says the doctor wanted to be sure Jackson’s children did not have a show-business upbringing and were afforded a formal education—things Jackson told Klein he wanted for his children.

Linney set for offbeat comedy pilot about cancer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Laura Linney is taking on an offbeat role in a Showtime comedy pilot—a woman who is diagnosed with cancer. Showtime said Thursday that Linney will star in and executive produce the half-hour show, “The C Word,” with the pilot episode to be shot this fall. The cable channel says the series will delve into the

life of a suburban wife and mother as she confronts her illness and finds the light side in a dark situation. In a statement, the Emmy Award-winning Linney said she’s excited to tackle such “potentially rich, funny and complicated material.”

Rod and Patti Blagojevich to guest on ‘The View’

NEW YORK (AP)—ABC says Rod Blagojevich (blah-GOY-uh-vich), the indicted former governor of Illinois, will be a guest next month on “The View.” He’ll be joined by his wife, Patti. The joint appearance is set for Sept. 9. Blagojevich, who first appeared on the daytime talk show last January, will be promoting his new book, “The Governor.” Earlier this summer, Patti Blagojevich was a contestant on the NBC reality show “I’m a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here!”

No real rally, it's Rodriguez movie shot in Austin

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—A political rally being staged near the Texas Capitol had nothing to do with real Republicans or Democrats. A stretch of Congress Avenue was closed to traffic Thursday as part of filming for the Robert Rodriguez action movie “Machete,” featuring Robert De Niro. One scene

included a red, white and blue decorated stage with a banner saying “Vote for Senator McLaughlin.” De Niro, in a suit, red tie and cowboy hat, appeared to be giving a campaign speech. Rodriguez previously said the movie will also feature Jessica Alba, Lindsay Lohan and Cheech Marin. It is based on the “fake” trailer in the 2007 movie “Grindhouse.” Several of Rodriguez’s productions including the “Spy Kids” movies were filmed in Texas. His Troublemaker Studios is located in Austin.

‘Wizards of Waverly Place’ transforms into movie

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Disney Channel series “Wizards of Waverly Place” is offering its fans a bonanza, with a TV movie and a chance to meet the show’s stars at a convention in September. “Wizards of Waverly Place The Movie,” debuting at 8 p.m. EDT Friday, sends the magical Russo siblings on an eventful Caribbean vacation with their parents. On Sept. 13, cast members including Selena Gomez and Jake T. Austin will take part in the D23 Expo, a Disney fan convention in Anaheim, Calif. Executive producer Peter Murietta says the “Wizards of Waverly Place” event will include a screening of the show’s third-season premiere and a surprise musical performance.

Student hopes friendship graduates into relationship

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

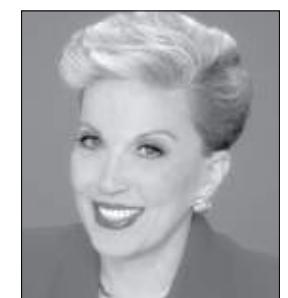
DEAR ABBY: I’m a 22-year-old male who has never been in a serious relationship. About six months ago, I went away to grad school and met a girl. We have become good friends. We talk a lot and I flirt, but I’m not sure if she’s flirting back.

She laughs at my stupid jokes and touches me when we joke around, but I think she may regard me as just a friend. I enjoy having her as a friend, but I can’t stop thinking about how I’d like to be more than just friends. Should I take the chance and tell her how I feel and risk our friendship—or let things remain the way they are?

WANTS MORE IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR WANTS MORE: Take the chance and tell her. Faint heart never won fair lady. A clue that she might be mutually attracted to you is the fact that she touches you.

If she isn’t attracted to you, you can still be friends—but you’ll be psychologically free to look elsewhere for romance. Please write back and tell me what happens—I’m dying to know.



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have just learned that my older sister, “Lindy” (who is currently living with our parents), has been married for two months. I’m the only one who knows. Lindy’s husband moved out of state to take a temporary job.

I know if my parents knew, they’d be upset and would no longer allow her to live with them. Their position is if you’re old enough to get married, you should be financially independent. As it stands, she is currently on their medical insurance, pays no rent and is attending school on their dollar.

She and her husband had planned to keep this a secret from everyone. I just found out, and it makes me sick. She’s getting a free ride at my parents’ expense.

I promised Lindy I’d keep her secret, but I think what she’s doing is wrong and has the potential to hurt my parents financially and emotionally. I am tempted to tell them anyway. How do you think I should handle this?

I’VE GOT A SECRET IN UTAH

DEAR GOT A SECRET: You should strongly encourage your sister to level with your parents for the reasons you stated. But do not betray her confidence because if you do, she will never confide in you again. It’s not as though Lindy is on drugs, unmarried and pregnant or in a life-threatening situation. Your parents will find out eventually, and she’ll face the music then.

DEAR ABBY: Whenever my brother sees a family member eat something unhealthy (salty chips, ice cream, etc.), he thinks it’s OK to comment on what we’re eating and what it will do to our bodies. I think it is rude.

We know that not everything we eat is perfectly healthy, but we know to eat these things in moderation. (None of us is overweight, by the way.)

My brother claims he makes these comments because he “cares about us,” but I think it’s rude to do it while we’re eating. What do you think?

CHRISTINA IN FAIRFIELD, OHIO

DEAR CHRISTINA: I agree. There is nothing so hard to swallow as unasked-for advice, particularly when you’re eating. Your brother may mean well, or he may be a know-it-all, but his timing is off. Ignore him, and when he sees he doesn’t get a rise out of you, he’ll stop.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: *Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet*, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Positive vibes for Vick at the Linc



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Boos? There weren't any.

Protests? No banners decrying Michael Vick's dogfighting pursuits that sent him to prison for 18 months.

There was no doubt how Philly fans felt about having Vick on their team. As he trotted onto the field for his first play in an Eagles uniform in Thursday night's exhibition game against Jacksonville, they rose from their seats and cheered.

Vick didn't seem to notice; he was all business as he entered the huddle on just the second play from scrimmage. Coach Andy Reid had promised to use Vick early, and he was good to his word.

Reid also made Vick's initial NFL play since December 31, 2006, an easy one: a shovel pass to rookie LeSean McCoy that went for 4 yards.

Vick came on for five more plays in the opening half, and each time there was an audible buzz in the Linc. Again, Vick didn't appear to notice—he spent his time shuttling from Reid's shadow on the sideline to the huddle, and then taking snaps in the shotgun.

On his third play, in the midst of the Eagles' 68-yard drive to a 31-yard field goal, Vick actually replaced Donovan McNabb at quarterback. On the previous two, McNabb split out wide, but Vick never looked his way.

Without McNabb on the field—



any fist pumps or chest bumps; Vick headed right back to Reid's side.

He did have a lively conversation with receiver DeSean Jackson on the sideline while the Jaguars were conducting a long touchdown drive. And during Philadelphia's 57-yard drive to the Jags 1, Vick took on a cheerleader's role, clapping his hands with his helmet askew on top of his head.

That drive ended ignominiously when McNabb's lateral to McCoy was mishandled and returned 92 yards for a Jaguars touchdown. When the Eagles staged another long drive at the end of the half, a helmetless Vick once more was clapping and cheering—but not playing.

Indeed, Philly's offense was more efficient without the gimmicks involving Vick.

If Vick noticed the smattering of No. 7 jerseys with his name on them in the stands, he never reacted to those fans—or any others. During warmups, the only time he became somewhat animated was when former NFL coach Herman Edwards, on hand as a TV commentator, walked over to hug Vick and McNabb. All three were smiling broadly as Edwards joked with them.

As for any organized protests by animal rights groups near the stadium or even inside, nothing materialized. Perhaps next week, when the Eagles travel to the Meadowlands to conclude the preseason against the Jets. Or maybe when Vick is cleared to play during the season by commissioner Roger Goodell, which could happen by mid-October or sooner.

Garcia changes venue and stays the course

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)—Seven days ago, Sergio Garcia wasn't even sure if he would be eligible to play in The Barclays for the start of the PGA Tour

Playoffs for the FedEx Cup.

Suddenly, he has a splendid view from the top.

Garcia took another important step toward recovering from a troublesome season Thursday with a 6-under 65 at Liberty National for a share of the lead with Paul Goydos and Steve Marino.

"We are getting back into it," Garcia said. "Last week was nice. It was good to see ourselves ... getting that feeling of being out there trying to win a tournament and getting the juices flowing a little bit. We're just looking forward to hopefully finishing the year well here, keep this good momentum going."

At a different venue—Liberty National—Garcia stayed the course. He is a two-time winner of this tournament, both times at tree-lined Westchester. On a track with intimidating views inside the ropes and gorgeous vistas of Manhattan, he wound up in a familiar spot.

In some respects, so did Tiger Woods.

The Barclays is the only tournament Woods has played at least three times without ever finishing in the top 10. He shot a 70.

Most players would have taken such a score when they first saw Liberty National. The course played significantly shorter, however, with five tees moved forward, and it showed in the scoring.

Nearly half the field was at par or better, and some two dozen players shot in the 60s.

Goydos ran off five birdies in a six-hole stretch starting with the 16th hole, which he attributed to great putting, solid wedge play, and the PGA Tour rules staff for being gentle with hole

locations and some forward tees.

"In theory, you have 125 of the best players on the PGA Tour here this week, someone is going to shoot a low round every day," Goydos said. "Today was my chance."

Marino seized on his opportunity, too, getting to 7 under until a bogey on his last hole.

They were one shot ahead of a group that included Charley Hoffman, who stumbled in by missing a 4-foot birdie putt on No. 8 and having to save bogey with an 8-foot putt on his final hole.

Y.E. Yang, in his first tournament since taking down Woods in the final round to win the PGA Championship, had a 71.

Woods looked solid in his return to The Barclays for the first time in six years, until he lost some control toward the end. Poor tee shots took away easy birdie chances on a pair of par 5s late in his round, and another one led to his lone bogey at No. 8.

Woods declined interview requests, telling PGA Tour officials he was going to the chipping area.

"You've got to make hay on the par 5s here," Woods said in a brief interview with XM Radio. "You don't get too many opportunities around this place, and I only made one birdie on the par 5s."

He probably would have taken a 70 after his first time around Liberty National, a course that has received scant praise from the players this week. The best anyone has said about the course designed by Tom Kite and Bob Cupp is that it is hard.

"It's a long, hard golf course with difficult greens," Goydos said. "I don't think Tom Kite was thinking, 'Let's see how easy I can make this course.' I don't think that was his mindset."

Still, it helped that the hole locations

were accessible, and the course wasn't as long as its 7,419 yards. The biggest difference was the 18th, where Woods turned to the right, stopped when he couldn't find the tee markers, then marched 50 yards forward.

"Someone around here is smart," Zach Johnson said under his breath.

Phil Mickelson, a member at Liberty National, made four bogeys in a five-hole stretch around the turn, the meatiest part of the course. He bounced back for a 70.

The biggest rally, however, belonged to the 29-year-old Garcia.

He opened his year with a couple of top 10s in Abu Dhabi and Qatar on the European Tour. The rest of the season has been a letdown, consumed by poor play and the breakup with Morgan Norman, the daughter of Greg Norman.

Garcia tied for 10th at the U.S. Open, his only top 10 for a seven-month stretch until he tied for fourth last week in Greensboro, N.C., a tournament he only played to make sure he got into the playoffs.

He showed quickly that might be more than just a good week. Garcia ran off four birdies on the back nine (he started at No. 10), twice making birdie putts in the 15-foot range. His best shot came on the third hole, a 9-iron from 138 yards into a breeze that was the proper distance on a hole where it can be tough to get it close.

Then came the cheers, with consecutive wedges that danced around the cup and set up tap-in birdies.

"It's obviously very nice, after last week and playing well and being up there all week in contention, to open this tournament with a good, solid round," Garcia said. "Don't be deceived by the scores. It's not an easy course. That's important. And hopefully, we can go out there tomorrow and play another solid round."

They have played in seven major finals as Nos. 1-2, including at each of the other three Grand Slam tournaments, with Nadal leading 5-2. But because Nadal recently fell to third in the rankings, there was a possibility the two men who have

Williams sisters can't meet in US Open final



NEW YORK (AP)—Serena and Venus Williams have met in eight Grand Slam finals, most recently at Wimbledon last month. The U.S. Open won't feature No. 9.

The No. 2-seeded Serena and No. 3 Venus are in the same half of the U.S. Open field announced Thursday, meaning they could face each other only in the semifinals of the year's last major tournament.

"It is a shame. They're the people to beat. They rise to the occasion at the big ones, especially Serena," three-time U.S. Open champion John McEnroe said.

"In interest level alone, it's too bad," added McEnroe, part of the CBS Sports announcing team at the tournament.

That network began carrying the U.S. Open women's final in prime time in 2001, a move widely attributed to the sisters' ascension in the sport. Venus beat Serena that year for the championship, and nearly 23 million viewers tuned in, giving the final the largest TV audience of any program that night, including a football game between Notre Dame and Nebraska.

In July, Serena beat Venus at Wimbledon for her 11th Grand Slam singles title—four more than Venus owns. Serena also leads 6-2 in major finals and 11-10 overall in professional matches.

"There's definitely a rivalry, especially when we step out on the court," Serena said.

"We never talk about numbers, per se. But when we're on the court, we both have in the back of our minds that we won that many matches against each other," she said. "At least it's in the back of my mind."

There won't be Williams-Williams to decide a title, but there could be Federer-Nadal. No. 1-seeded Roger Federer and No. 3 Rafael Nadal were drawn into opposite halves of the field when the draw was held behind closed doors Wednesday.

They have played in seven major finals as Nos. 1-2, including at each of the other three Grand Slam tournaments, with Nadal leading 5-2. But because Nadal recently fell to third in the rankings, there was a possibility the two men who have

dominated tennis in recent years would wind up on the same side of the bracket in New York.

Instead, 15-time Grand Slam title winner Federer has No. 4 Novak Djokovic and No. 5 Andy Roddick in his half. Federer edged Roddick 16-14 in the fifth set of the Wimbledon final in July.

Federer is bidding for a sixth consecutive U.S. Open title, but he wasn't always so comfortable in New York.

"I used to struggle here a little bit," he said Thursday, "just because I had trouble with the wind, trouble with the humidity ... my mind would wander during the tournament."

The potential men's quarterfinals are Federer vs. No. 8 Nikolay Davydenko, and Roddick vs. Djokovic in the top half; No. 2 Andy Murray vs. No. 6 Juan Martin del Potro, and Nadal vs. No. 7 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the bottom half.

Nadal could face Murray in the semifinals for the second straight year at the U.S. Open. Murray upset Nadal in 2008 to reach his first Grand Slam final.

Nadal's first Grand Slam action since his fourth-round loss at the French Open will start with an intriguing opponent: Richard Gasquet, the former top-10 player coming off a 2 1/2-month suspension for testing positive for cocaine.

Federer starts off against American wild-card recipient Devin Britton, an 18-year-old who won the NCAA singles championship for Mississippi in May.

Federer could play two-time major champion Lleyton Hewitt in the third round, U.S. Davis Cup player James Blake in the fourth, and French Open runner-up Robin Soderling or U.S. Open Series winner Sam Querrey in the quarterfinals.

The women's quarterfinals could be No. 1 Dinara Safina vs. No. 5 Jelena Jankovic, and No. 4 Elena Dementieva vs. No. 6 Svetlana Kuznetsova in the top half; Serena Williams vs. No. 7 Vera Zvonareva, and Venus Williams vs. No. 8 Victoria Azarenka in the bottom half.

Venus Williams could wind up facing 2005 U.S. Open champion Kim Clijsters in the fourth round. Clijsters recently came out of retirement and is returning to the tournament for the first time since winning it.

Baseball drug case could head to Supreme Court



NEW YORK

(AP)—A new Obama administration appointee will decide whether to take the baseball drug list case to the Supreme Court.

The Major League Baseball Players Association won a 9-2 decision Wednesday from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which ruled federal agents illegally seized the urine samples of 104 players who allegedly tested positive in 2003. The agents were entitled only to the samples to the 10 players named on the initial search warrant, the court said.

Former Harvard Law School Dean

Elena Kagan, confirmed as Solicitor General by the Senate in March, will make the final decision whether to ask the Supreme Court to review the case, Justice Department spokeswoman Beverly Lumpkin said Thursday.

"The 9th Circuit is not one of the Supreme Court's favorite circuits. It is probably one of the most liberal circuits in the country," said Pace Law School professor Bennett Gershman, a former assistant district attorney and assistant attorney general in New York. "I think there's a good chance if it goes to the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court is going to reverse."

Supreme Court rules set a 90-day timeframe for filing a petition, with the clock starting when Wednesday's decision formally is entered into the record. At least four Supreme Court justices must decide to accept the case.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., and Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Samuel A. Alito Jr. often adopt an expansive view of government power, while Justices John Paul Stevens, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen G. Breyer put more emphasis on personal rights, a position taken by Sonia Sotomayor on lower courts before she was elevated to the Supreme Court this month. As often is the

case, Justice Anthony M. Kennedy could be the swing vote.

But the baseball drug dispute might fall outside the norm.

"I don't think this is a case that necessarily breaks down along liberal and conservative lines," said players' association lawyer Steve Fehr, brother of the union leader. "I would think a lot of people who are truly conservative would applaud the results. And I think a lot of people who are truly conservative would not want a rule under which, armed with a search warrant that allows it to seek records for 10 individuals, the government could obtain, you know,

thousands of records."

Harvard Law School Professor Lawrence H. Tribe had hoped the court would rule for the players' association.

"I think that Chief Judge (Alex) Kozinski sensibly accommodated the many competing concerns that made this such a troubling case," he said.

Maurice Suh, a lawyer for cyclist Floyd Landis, said athletes in all sports should be troubled by the government's conduct in this case.

"When something like this occurs, it doesn't do any good to law-enforcement agencies or to the efforts of anti-doping authorities," he said.

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Garrett Jones' two-run homer in the eighth inning helped the last-place Pittsburgh Pirates rally for the second time in three nights to beat the division-leading Philadelphia Phillies 3-2 in the National League on Thursday.

Charlie Morton shook off a rough first inning to limit the Phillies to two runs over six innings.

J.A. Happ (10-3), who lost for the first time in four decisions, appeared to be cruising following Pirates rookie Andrew McCutchen's homer leading off the first.

Jones, who leads NL rookies with 15 homers, drove a 1-1 pitch to center to give the Pirates the lead.

Dodgers 3, Rockies 2

At Denver, Los Angeles beat Colorado to win their three-game series and open a four-game lead in the NL West over the wild-card leader.

Vicente Padilla (1-0), jettisoned by Texas this month after angering the Rangers by throwing at hitters, returned to the NL and allowed two runs and six hits in five solid innings.

Rafael Furcal hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the sixth and Matt Kemp hit his career-high 19th homer for the Dodgers.

Jorge De La Rosa (12-9) took the loss.

Astros 4, Cardinals 3

At St. Louis, Jeff Keppinger hit a tie-breaking homer with two out in the ninth inning to help Houston avoid a three-game sweep.

The Astros avoided a second three-game sweep in St. Louis this season.

Matt Holliday homered for the NL Central-leading Cardinals.

Keppinger's fourth homer of the season and first since June 19 barely cleared the left-field wall.

Nationals 5, Cubs 4

At Chicago, Ryan Zimmerman hit a two-run homer and Adam Dunn added a solo shot, helping Washington win a series at Wrigley Field for the first time since 2005.

Aramis Ramirez homered, singled twice and drove in three runs but Chicago fell nine games behind St. Louis in the NL Central.

J.D. Martin (3-3) outpitched Randy Wells (9-7) to win a matchup of 26-year-old rookies.

Mets 10, Marlins 3

At Miami, Tim Redding pitched 6 2-3 innings to give the Mets' injury-ravaged staff a boost and help New York snap a five-game skid.

Redding (2-4), making his second start since July 2, allowed three runs —

Pirates surprise Phillies again, 3-2



AP
Philadelphia Phillies shortstop Jimmy Rollins, top, hops over Pittsburgh Pirates' Andrew McCutchen, bottom, to complete a double play on the Pirates' Delwynn Young in the third inning of the baseball game in Pittsburgh, Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009.

all on leadoff homers — and five hits.

New York scored nine runs with two out and tied a season high with 17 hits. Florida fielding lapses led to five runs.

Chris Coghlan led off Florida's first inning with a home run and went deep again in the sixth.

Reds 8, Brewers 5

At Milwaukee, Justin Lehr pitched into the eighth inning and drew a key walk in Cincinnati's five-run fifth, helping the Reds to the three-game sweep. Lehr (3-1) struck out a career-high seven over 7 2-3 innings.

Joey Votto homered, drove in two runs and scored twice.

Prince Fielder hit a three-run homer in the first to give him 115 RBIs, tops in the majors, and Mike Cameron also doubled in a run for Milwaukee.

Braves 9, Padres 1

At Atlanta, Javier Vazquez pitched seven scoreless innings and everyone in the Atlanta lineup contributed to a 17-hit attack as the Braves avoided a sweep.

Vazquez (11-9) snapped his first two-game losing streak of the season, allowing five hits.

Every Atlanta starter, Vazquez included, had at least one hit. Adam LaRoche homered, hot-hitting Matt Diaz drove in two runs from the leadoff spot

and Omar Infante reached base four times. Even Chipper Jones, mired in an extended slump, managed two hits.

The last-place Padres were going for their first sweep since May. Clayton Richard (3-1) was rocked for nine hits and six runs in 2 1-3 innings.

Diamondbacks 11, Giants 0

At San Francisco, Mark Reynolds homered and drove in two runs in his return to Arizona's lineup, Yusmeiro Petit snapped a personal three-game skid and the Diamondbacks ended a disappointing road trip with an 11-0 win over the San Francisco Giants on Thursday night.

Brandon Allen added his first career home run, a three-run shot in the fifth when the Diamondbacks scored four times. Arizona went just 2-8 on their 10-game trip.

Petit (3-8) scattered four hits over six innings and had five strikeouts with two walks to win for the first time since Aug. 4.

Rangers 7, Yankees 2

At New York, the Texas Rangers became the first visitors to win a series at Yankee Stadium since mid-June in beating New York 7-2 in the American League on Thursday.

Ian Kinsler and Chris Davis both had three-run homers for Texas, which took two of three from the club with the best record in the majors. Jason Grilli (2-2), C.J. Wilson and Frank Francisco combined for 5 1-3 innings of two-hit relief.

A.J. Burnett (10-8) lost despite striking out a season-high 12 in six innings. Texas' Dustin Nippert was pulled after walking seven in 3 2-3 innings.

Kinsler connected for a second homer in the eighth, giving him a career-high 28.

White Sox 9, Red Sox 5

At Boston, Jayson Nix drove in three runs and Chicago scored four in the second and third innings to avoid a four-game sweep from Boston.

Chicago battered rookie Junichi Tazawa (2-3) for nine runs just five days after he pitched six scoreless innings in a 14-1 win over New York.

John Danks (12-8) allowed two runs and six hits in six innings to improve to 3-0 in his last four starts.

J.D. Drew hit two solo homers and Alex Gonzalez added one for the Red Sox, who remained six games behind the Yankees in the AL East and dropped to 10 games ahead of Texas in the wild card.

Indians 5, Orioles 4

At Baltimore, Andy Marte hit a two-run homer with two outs in the ninth for Cleveland.

Jim Johnson (3-5) got the first two outs in the ninth before allowing a single to Matt LaPorta. After going 3-0 on Marte, the No. 9 hitter in the lineup, Johnson worked the count full before Marte hit a liner that barely cleared the wall in left field.

Grady Sizemore homered and Shin-Soo Choo had three hits for the Indians, who trailed 4-2 in the seventh.

Melvin Mora and Matt Wieters homered for the Orioles, now 44-3 when leading after eight innings.

Athletics 2, Angels 0

At Anaheim, rookie Trevor Cahill and two relievers combined on a three-hitter and Ryan Sweeney came within a double of hitting for the cycle to lead Oakland.

Sweeney, who came in 4 for 9 lifetime against Angels starter Ervin Santana, homered, singled and tripled in his three at-bats against the right-hander to help the A's recover from a three-game sweep at Seattle.

Cahill (7-12) held the AL West leaders to a two-out single by Vladimir Guerrero in the fourth inning and a leadoff double by Jeff Mathis in the sixth.

Michael Wuertz pitched a perfect eighth, and Andrew Bailey gave up a two-out bunt single by Torii Hunter in the ninth to earn his 19th save.

Royals 8, Mariners 4

At Seattle, Yuniesky Betancourt hit one of Kansas City's four home runs in his return to Seattle.

Brayan Pena, Alberto Callaspo, and David DeJesus homered for the Royals in their first four-homer game this season. The last time they hit four was May 23, 2007, against Cleveland.

Kyle Davies (5-9) went six innings to earn the victory. He allowed five hits and two runs, walking three and striking out five. Jamey Wright allowed one hit over two innings and Bruce Chen gave up a two-run homer to Jack Wilson in the ninth.

Doug Fister (1-1) worked six innings for the Mariners, allowing five runs and five hits.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	79	48	.622	—
Boston	73	54	.575	6
Tampa Bay	69	57	.548	9 1/2
Toronto	58	67	.464	20 1/2
Baltimore	52	76	.406	27 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	67	59	.532	—
Chicago	64	64	.500	4
Minnesota	63	64	.496	4 1/2
Cleveland	57	70	.449	10 1/2
Kansas City	49	78	.386	11 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	75	51	.595	—
Texas	71	55	.563	4
Seattle	66	62	.516	10
Oakland	56	71	.441	19 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	73	52	.584	—
Florida	67	60	.528	7
Atlanta	67	60	.528	7
New York	58	70	.453	16 1/2
Washington	46	82	.359	28 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	74	55	.574	—
Chicago	63	62	.504	9
Houston	62	65	.488	11
Milwaukee	61	66	.480	12
Pittsburgh	55	71	.437	17 1/2
Cincinnati	53	72	.424	19

West Division

Los Angeles	76	52	.594	—
Colorado	72	56	.567	4
San Francisco	69	59	.539	7
Arizona	56	72	.438	20
San Diego	54	75	.419	22 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh	3	Philadelphia	2
LA Dodgers	3	Colorado	2
Houston	4	St. Louis	3
Washington	5	Chi Cubs	4
NY Mets	10	Florida	3
Cincinnati	8	Milwaukee	5
Atlanta	9	San Diego	1
Arizona	11	San Francisco	0
Texas	7	NY Yankees	2
Chi White Sox	9	Boston	5
Cleveland	5	Baltimore	4
Oakland	2	LA Angels	0
Kansas City	8	Seattle	4

THE BARCLAYS SCORES

JERSEY CITY, New Jersey (AP) Scores Thursday from The Barclays, a \$7.5 million US PGA Tour playoffs event at 7,419-yard, par-71 (36-35) Liberty National Golf Club Course:

FIRST ROUND

Paul Goydos	33-32	65
Steve Marino	32-33	65
Sergio Garcia	34-31	65
Webb Simpson	34-32	66
Fredrik Jacobson	32-34	66
Heath Slocum	32-34	66
Charley Hoffman	33-33	66
Padraig Harrington	35-32	67
Ian Poulter	32-35	67
David Toms	34-33	67
Kevin Streelman	35-33	68
Robert Allenby	32-36	68
Justin Leonard	35-33	68
Nick Watney	33-35	68
Richard S. Johnson	34-34	68
Rod Pampling	36-32	68
Lee Janzen	34-34	68
John Merrick	34-34	68
Ryan Moore	34-34	68
Matt Kuchar	35-33	68
Mark Calcavecchia	35-34	69
Steve Stricker	34-35	69
Kevin Sutherland	32-37	69
Michael Letzig	36-33	69
Jim Furyk	35-34	69
Tim Petrovic	36-33	69
Cameron Beckman	35-35	70
Davis Love III	35-35	70
Stewart Cink	33-37	70
Brian Gay	33-37	70
Tiger Woods	36-34	70
Zach Johnson	35-35	70
D.A. Points	36-34	70

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

ROTARY STANDINGS

G-Stars	1	0
Sixers	1	0
Sonic	1	0
Rollers 1	1	0
Celtics	0	1
Saints	0	1
O'aces	0	1
670 Rollers	0	1
Hi-5	0	1
Rollers 2	0	0
Sparks	0	0

RUNNIN'

From Page 28

School in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization caging, fired 18 points to give the Runnin' Rebels a winning start in the 12-team field.

Josh Kiyoshi, who is Rogolifoi's teammate in Southern, chipped in 12, while Kagman High School's Jesus Iguel added 12. Marianas High School

stalwart Ria Rangamar also made contributions, tallying six markers. Rogolifoi drilled 10 of his total points in the first half, as the Runnin' Rebels enjoyed a 29-13 halftime lead. Lawrence Deleon Guerrero and John Cenir tried to bring 670 Rollers back into the second half, but Iguel, Kiyoshi, and Rangamar were there to help Rogolifoi keep the gap. The Runnin' Rebels are

RGA August Ace at stake tomorrow

The Refaluwasch Golf Association August Ace will be at stake tomorrow when RGA holds a tournament at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

Check-in time is 11am, while tee off is at 12nn. The tournament is open to the first 16 RGA members to register for the day.

Participants in this weekend's

tournament must score better than 63 to take the monthly plum away from Jesse Seman.

Seman set the score to beat for this month's Ace after ruling the RGA qualifying tournament on Aug. 15, also at MCC. The 8-handicapper tamed the Marpi course with his even par 36 on

With neither team having a timeout remaining, the game was left at the hands of the five players in the court, leaving the noisy spectators and players on the bench glued on the intense finish.

After Ve Dero's basket, SIP quickly inbounded the ball and Villacrusis seemed headed to attack the basket. However, when he dribbled and turned to his right, he banged into De Vero, who tapped the ball and successfully stole it.

SIP wasted precious seconds on the clock before deciding what to do next after an error. The dethroned finally gave up a foul in the last seven seconds of the game, sending Bon Tamayo to the free throw line. Tamayo missed his first charity, keeping SIP's hopes alive. However, he canned the second one for the insurance basket.

Elmer Esdrelon made the last attempt in the game, but his tri-

NMBA regrouped in the third and Tobias continued to make shots from beyond the arc. He added two more triples in the third and tallied 10 points to bring NMBA back into the driver's seat, 73-69, entering the fourth quarter.

After keeping pace with NMBA in the first three periods, Cabalen gave in in the fourth quarter, as the former simply did not have the legs and enough second stringers to step up and

hitting two birds with one stone, encouraging hotel employees to have an active lifestyle through involvement in sports and at the same time helping the community, especially those involved with the MMAC.

"Every department at PIC has its own fund-raising activity for MMAC and this Olympics will be F&B's contribution to this worthy cause," PIC F&B administrative assistant Paul Duju added.

Rommell Bartolo, PIC's assistant restaurant manager, said the idea of having a Hotel Olympics was discussed only a week ago and when they presented it to the PIC management, everything follows, like the selection of the four sports.

"Most of the hotel teams on Saipan always play basketball.

Wang scored 12 points, while Williams chipped in 10.

Rollers and Hi-Five were the ninth and 10th team to debut in the 18-and-under caging. Yesterday, the Sparks were to collide against the Rollers 2 to complete the first week of the league.

After four playing days, the winners' circle now has G-Stars, Sonics, Runnin' Rebels, and Rollers 1 on its list. Dropping to the loser's bracket were the

front nines and a 1-under par 35 on the back. His gross 1-under par 71 tied the day's best score and beat eight others in the net score category.

Meanwhile, RGA tournament director Jess Wabol is reminding monthly Ace winners to complete the required number of tournaments

for the club championships.

Ace winners can only participate in the 2009 RGA Club Championships if they competed in at least six RGA-sanctioned tournaments or qualifying events.

For more information about RGA tournaments, contact Jordon Kosam at 483-4506 or Wabol at 288-1129. (PR)

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Pirates surprise Phillies again, 3-2

Garrett Jones' two-run homer in the eighth inning helped the last-place Pittsburgh Pirates rally for the second time in three nights to beat the division-leading Philadelphia Phillies 3-2 in the National League on Thursday.

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Positive vibes for Vick at the Linc

Boos? There weren't any. Protests? No banners decrying Michael Vick's dogfighting pursuits that sent him to prison for 18 months.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MDX-Chow Queen sweeps series

'New kids on the block' end SIP's reign

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Supporters of Samahang Ilokano and Pangasinense answered with a loud "No" when asked if the team is ready to give up its crown. Other spectators shouted unsolicited advice as if they wanted to fill the shoes of coach Mario Alegre to help SIP keep its hopes alive.

However, they don't have the ball in their hands to decide the game. Ivan De Vero had.

De Vero drilled a go-ahead banked shot and made a crucial steal to lift MDX-Chow Queen to an 84-81 victory over SIP in Game 2 en route to a title sweep in the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League on Thursday night at the JP Center Basketball Court.

The win ended SIP's two-year reign in the league and handed MDX, which is composed of a bunch of new guys in the local caging scene, its first title in the UFO caging.

De Vero came up with the game-winning plays in the last 34 seconds of the fourth quarter.

SIP had several chances to break the 81-all deadlock and steal the game, but could not deliver the important plays.

First, it fumbled down low,

See MDX-CHOW on Page 27



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MDX's Ivan De Vero, seen here reaching in for the ball against Junar Guiab in Game 2 of their title series, delivered the clutch plays for the Chow Queen-backed team en route to a sweep on Thursday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Runnin'Rebels slip past 670 Rollers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MISO caging veteran Tony Rogolifoi lifted the Runnin' Rebels to a 45-35 debut win over the Young 670 Rollers in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League on Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Rogolifoi, who plays for the Saipan Southern High

See RUNNIN' on Page 27



Lia Rangamar, seen here going for a shot in the MISO caging, scored six points in the Runnin' Rebels debut win over 670 Rollers in the Rotary league on Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN MONROYO

PIC launches Hotel Olympics for a Cause



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in last month's PIC dodgeball tournament are seen here in action. Dodgeball is among the four sports to be played in the 2009 Hotel Olympics for a Cause next month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB will be hosting the 2009 Hotel Olympics for a Cause—a first on the island—next month.

The Hotel Olympics will feature four sports, namely bike relay, basketball, beach volleyball, and dodgeball. All 11 hotels in the CNMI are invited to join the inaugural event, but only the first eight to register will be allowed to compete in the four-sport Hotel Olympics set for Sept. 18 and 19.

PIC had already sent out invitations to Hyatt Regency Saipan, World Resort, Palms Resort, Marianas Resort, Aqua

See PIC on Page 27